RaLΩGrad

2

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story by TSUNEO TAKANO

Art by TAKESHI OBATA

PARENTAL ADVISORY
MATURE CONTENT

小畑　健

Takeshi Obata

Apparently, there are many kinds of dragons in the world. There's more to this dragon business than I thought.

♌

Tsuneo Takano

Born in Tokyo.
No hobbies.
No expression.
No interests.
No harm.
Nothing to say.

Takeshi Obata was born in 1969 in Niigata, Japan, and is the artist of the wildly popular SHONEN JUMP title *Hikaru no Go,* which won the 2003 Tezuka Shinsei "New Hope" award and the Shogakukan Manga award. Obata is also the artist of *Arabian Majin Bokentan Lamp Lamp, Ayatsuri Sakon, Cyborg Jichan G,* and the smash hit manga *Death Note.*

RalΩGrad

Vol. 2

The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Manga Edition

Story By TSUNEO TAKANO
Art By TAKESHI OBATA

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RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

PARENTAL ADVISORY
RALΩGRAD is rated T+ for Older Teen and recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains fantasy violence and sexual situations.
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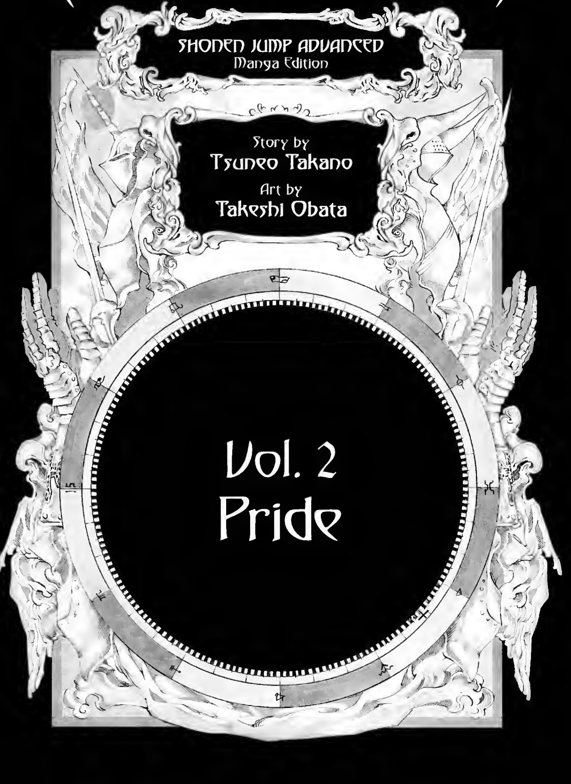
THE WORLD'S MOST CUTTING-EDGE MANGA
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
www.shonenjump.com

Ral Ω Grad



SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Manga Edition

Story by
Tsuneo Takano
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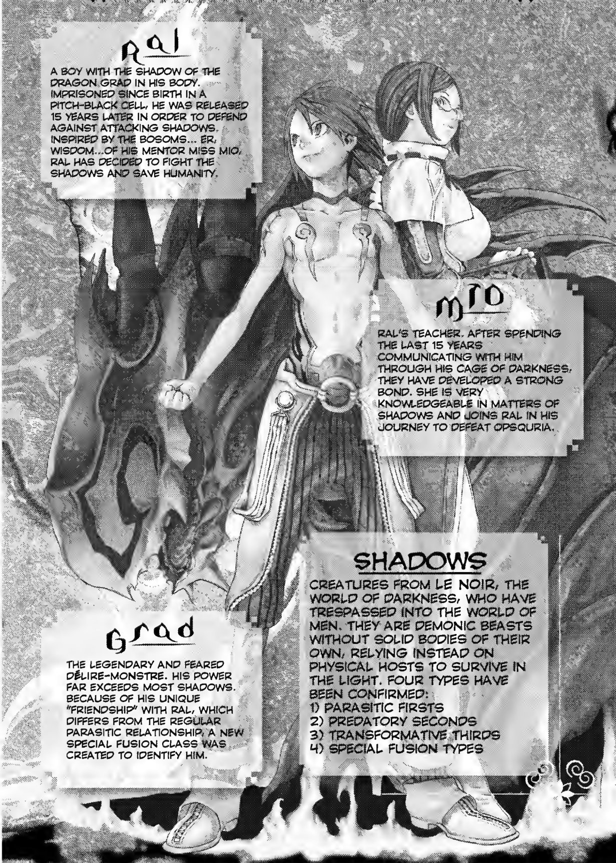
Takeshi Obata

Vol. 2
Pride

Story&Characters



Ral

A BOY WITH THE SHADOW OF THE DRAGON GRAD IN HIS BODY. IMPRISONED SINCE BIRTH IN A PITCH-BLACK CELL, HE WAS RELEASED 15 YEARS LATER IN ORDER TO DEFEND AGAINST ATTACKING SHADOWS. INSPIRED BY THE BOSOMS... ER, WISDOM...OF HIS MENTOR MISS MIO, RAL HAS DECIDED TO FIGHT THE SHADOWS AND SAVE HUMANITY.

Mio

RAL'S TEACHER. AFTER SPENDING THE LAST 15 YEARS COMMUNICATING WITH HIM THROUGH HIS CAGE OF DARKNESS, THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG BOND. SHE IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MATTERS OF SHADOWS AND JOINS RAL IN HIS JOURNEY TO DEFEAT OPSQURIA.

Grad

THE LEGENDARY AND FEARED DÉLIRE-MONSTRE. HIS POWER FAR EXCEEDS MOST SHADOWS. BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE "FRIENDSHIP" WITH RAL, WHICH DIFFERS FROM THE REGULAR PARASITIC RELATIONSHIP, A NEW SPECIAL FUSION CLASS WAS CREATED TO IDENTIFY HIM.

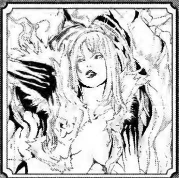
SHADOWS

CREATURES FROM LE NOIR, THE WORLD OF DARKNESS, WHO HAVE TRESPASSED INTO THE WORLD OF MEN. THEY ARE DEMONIC BEASTS WITHOUT SOLID BODIES OF THEIR OWN, RELYING INSTEAD ON PHYSICAL HOSTS TO SURVIVE IN THE LIGHT. FOUR TYPES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED:

1) PARASITIC FIRSTS
2) PREDATORY SECONDS
3) TRANSFORMATIVE THIRDS
4) SPECIAL FUSION TYPES

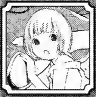
STORY THUS FAR...

HUMANKIND IS ON THE VERGE OF ANNIHILATION AFTER THE INVASION OF EVIL PARASITIC "SHADOWS" THAT FEED OFF OF ALL LIVING THINGS. DURING AN ATTACK BY THE SHADOW FORCES, THE LORD OF SPHAELITE RELEASES RAL—A BOY WHO HAS BEEN IMPRISONED IN DARKNESS SINCE INFANCY. HE HARBORS THE DEVASTATINGLY POWERFUL BLUE DRAGON INSIDE HIS BODY. UPON RELEASE, RAL AND GRAD FEND OFF THE ATTACKING SHADOWS AND HAVE NOW SET FORTH ON A JOURNEY TO DEFEAT OPSQURIA THE QUEEN OF SHADOWS!



OPSQURIA

THE QUEEN OF THE SHADOWS. VAIN BEYOND MEASURE, SHE CHOOSES ONLY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS AS HER HOSTS, FEEDING OFF THEIR LIFE ENERGY UNTIL SHE TIRES OF HER LOOKS AND FINDS AN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL HOST. SHE IS CALLED "LADY BIRA" BY HER KIND.

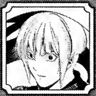


AIA

A YOUNG GIRL AND SHADOW HOST, WHO WAS IMPRISONED IN THE SAME DUNGEON AS RAL.

GARAGARA

AIA'S SHADOW. IT IS GOOD AT RECONNAISSANCE.

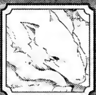


KAFKA

A KNIGHT AND DEFENDER OF CASTLE STOLA, KNOWN AS "KAFKA OF THE CHAIN OF ROSES."

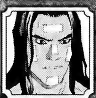
RIZ

KAFKA'S SHADOW. A CHAÎNE LORD, IT IS PARTICULARLY WELL SUITED FOR DEFENSE.



NAI

A DOG WITH THE ABILITY TO SNIFF OUT IF A LIVING THING IS POSSESSED BY A SHADOW.



MALERO

A SHADOW HOST THAT RAL LEFT IN CHARGE OF DEFENDING CASTLE SPHAELITE IN HIS ABSENCE.

GOLBAGO

MALERO'S SHADOW. LIKE GRAD, IT WISHES TO RETURN TO LE NOIR.

Ral Ω Grad

Vol. 2
Pride

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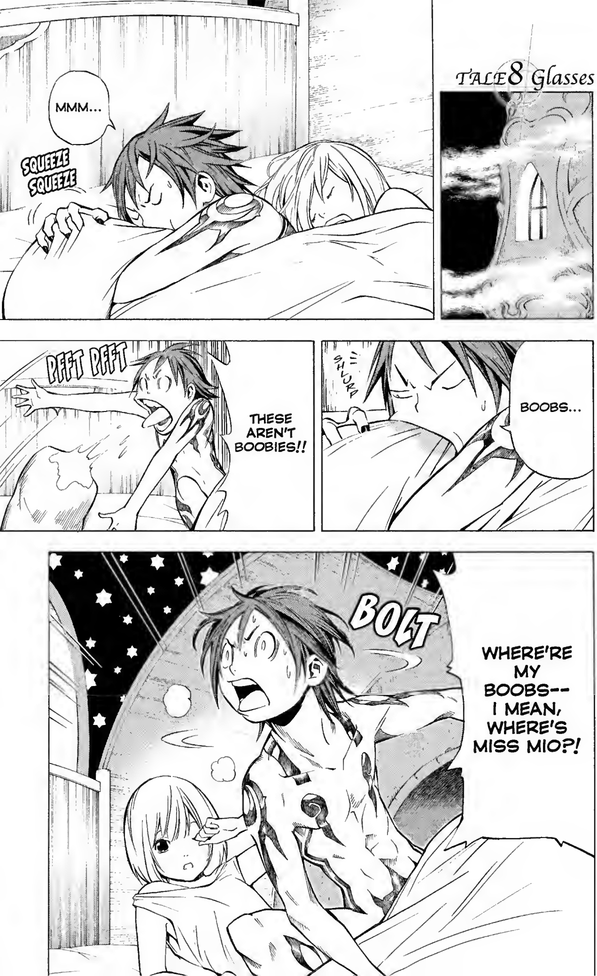
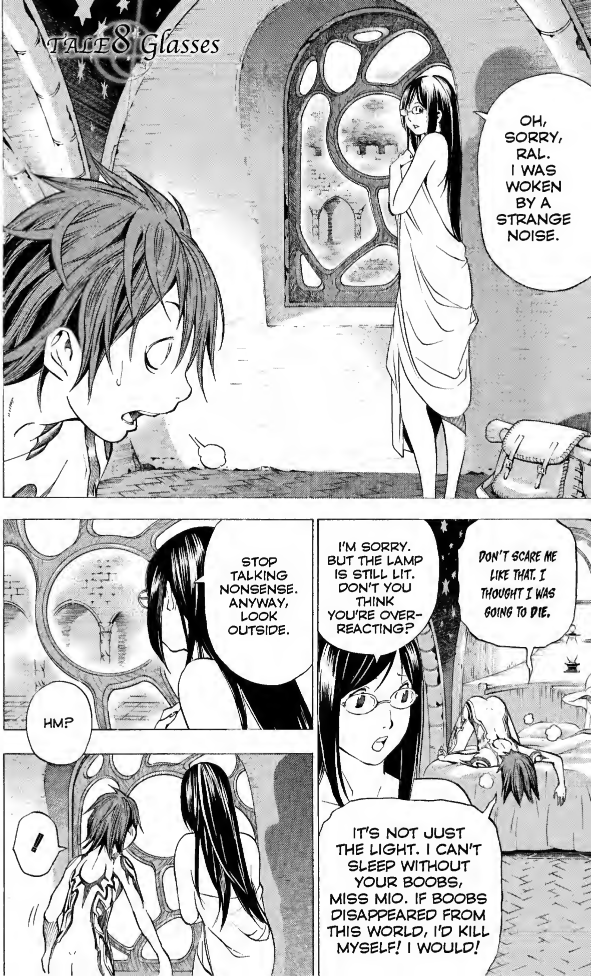
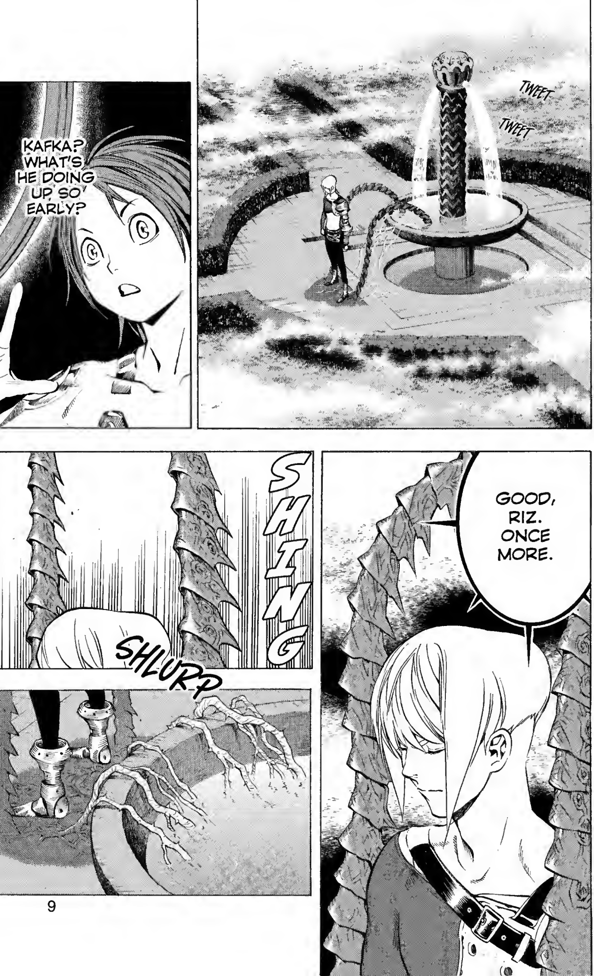
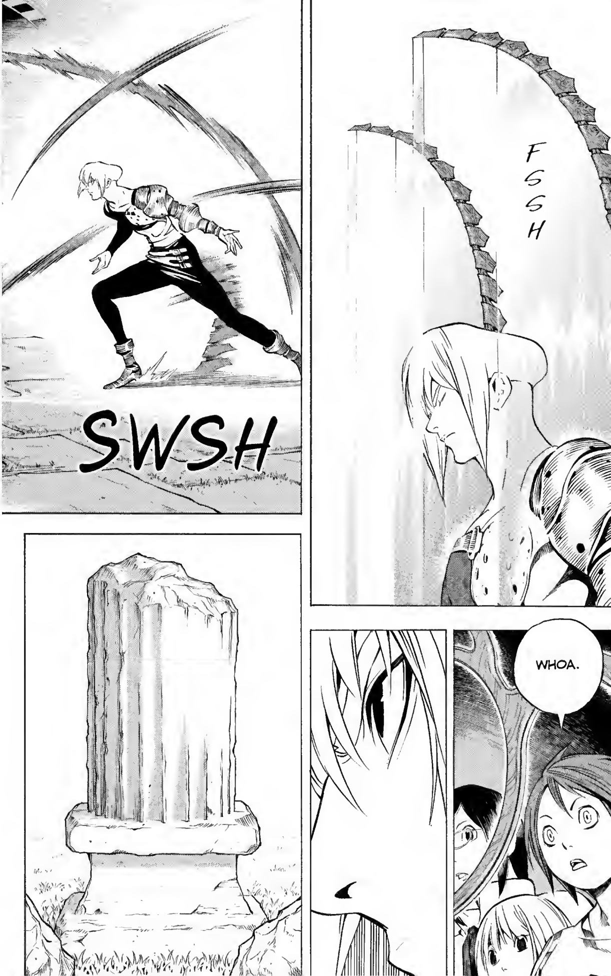
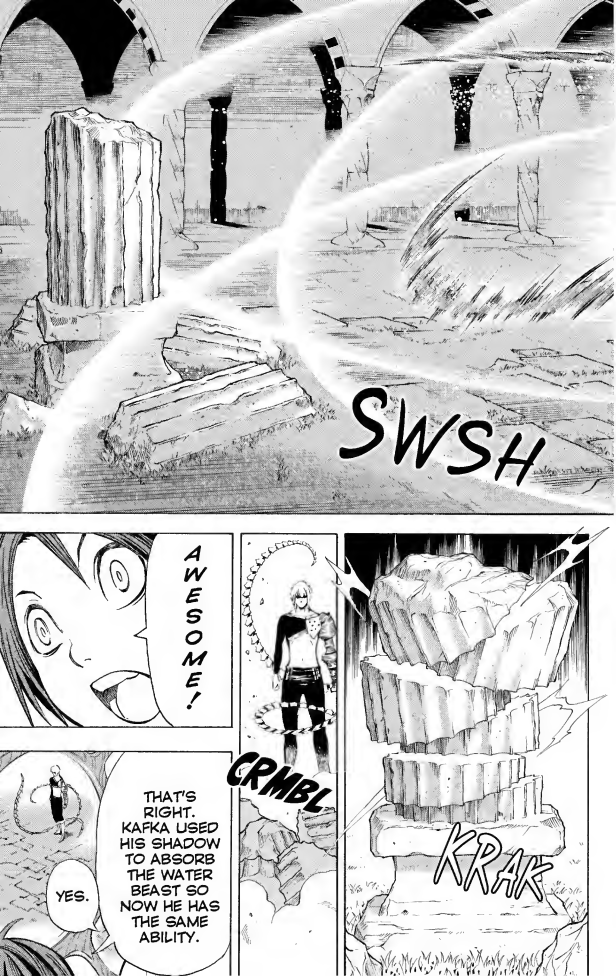

MMM...
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
SHLURP
BOOBS...
PFFT PFFT
THESE AREN'T BOOBIES!!
BOLT
WHERE'RE MY BOOBS-- I MEAN, WHERE'S MISS MIO?!

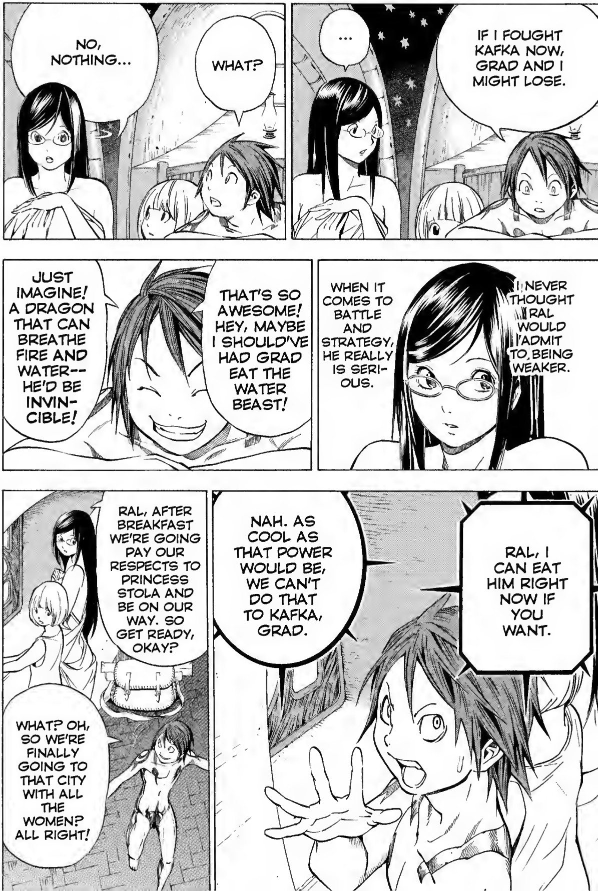
TALE 8 Glasses

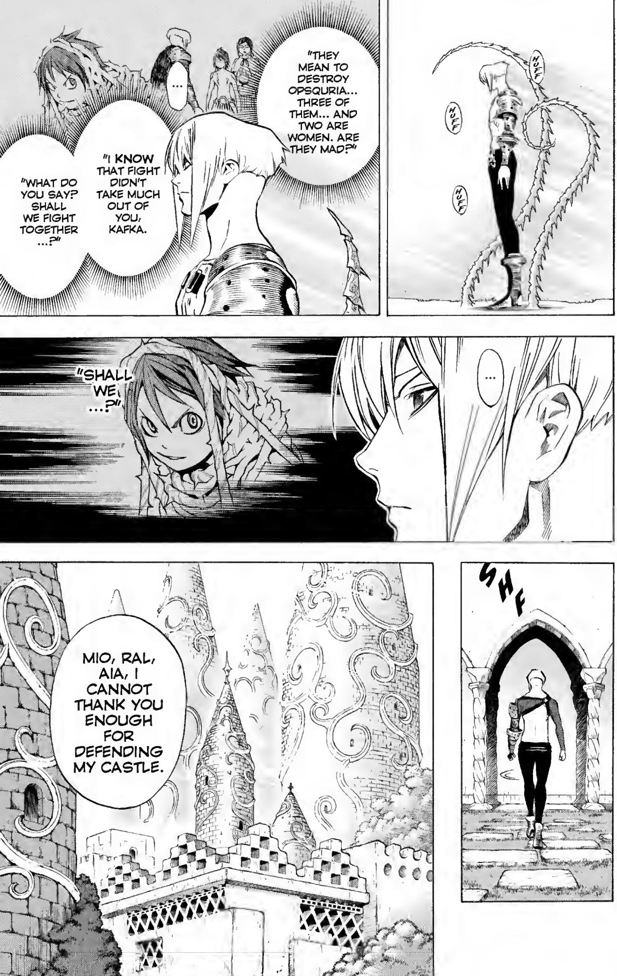

OH, SORRY, RAL. I WAS WOKEN BY A STRANGE NOISE.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
I'M SORRY. BUT THE LAMP IS STILL LIT. DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVER-REACTING?
IT'S NOT JUST THE LIGHT. I CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT YOUR BOOBS, MISS MIO. IF BOOBS DISAPPEARED FROM THIS WORLD, I'D KILL MYSELF! I WOULD!
STOP TALKING NONSENSE. ANYWAY, LOOK OUTSIDE.
HM?
!

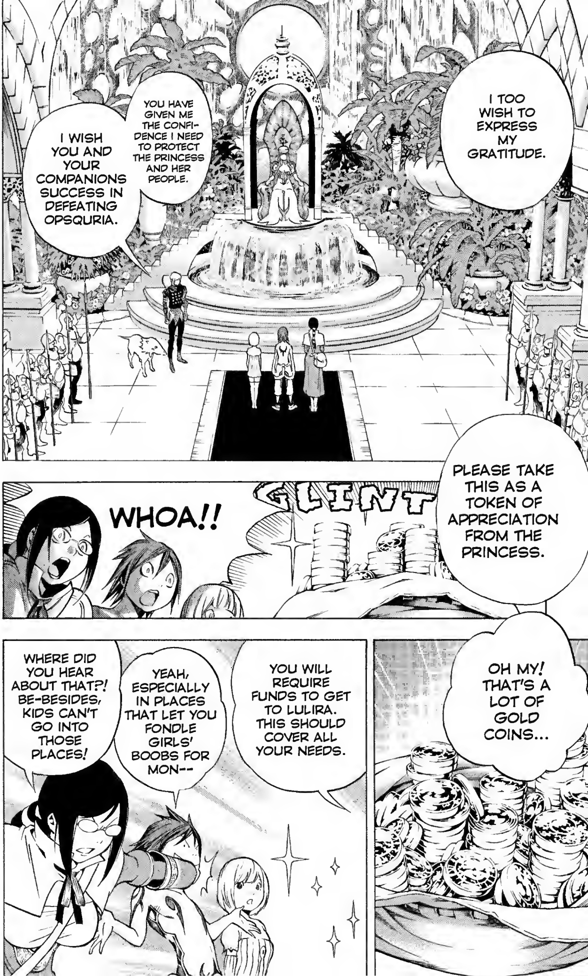

TWEET
TWEET
KAFKA? WHAT'S HE DOING UP SO EARLY?
GOOD, RIZ. ONCE MORE.
SHING
SHLURP

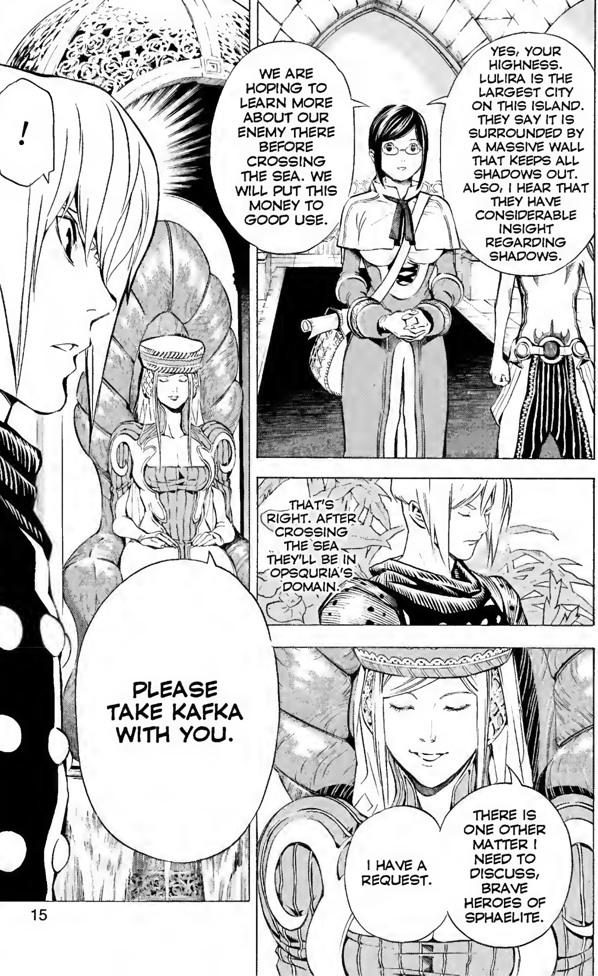

FSSH
SWSH
WHOA.

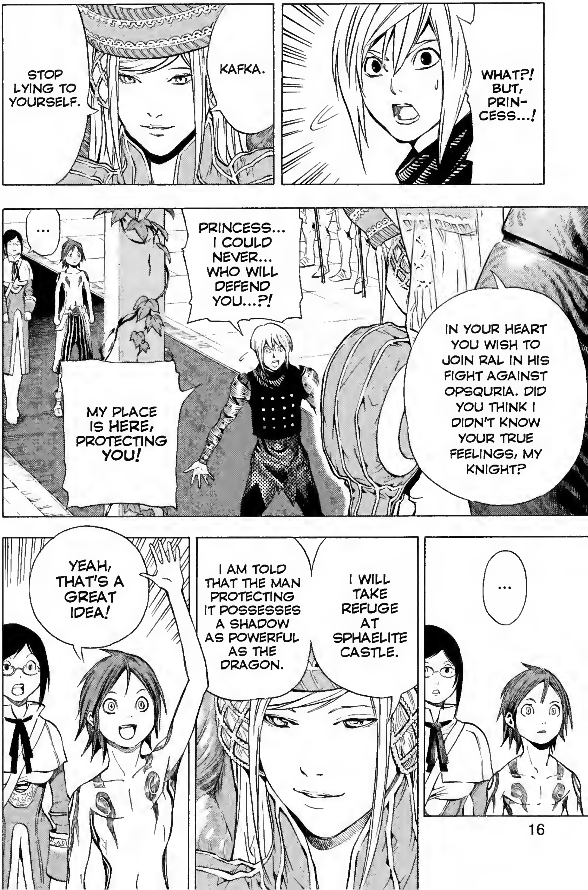

SWSH
KRAK
CRMBL
AWESOME!
THAT'S RIGHT. KAFKA USED HIS SHADOW TO ABSORB THE WATER BEAST SO NOW HE HAS THE SAME ABILITY.
YES.

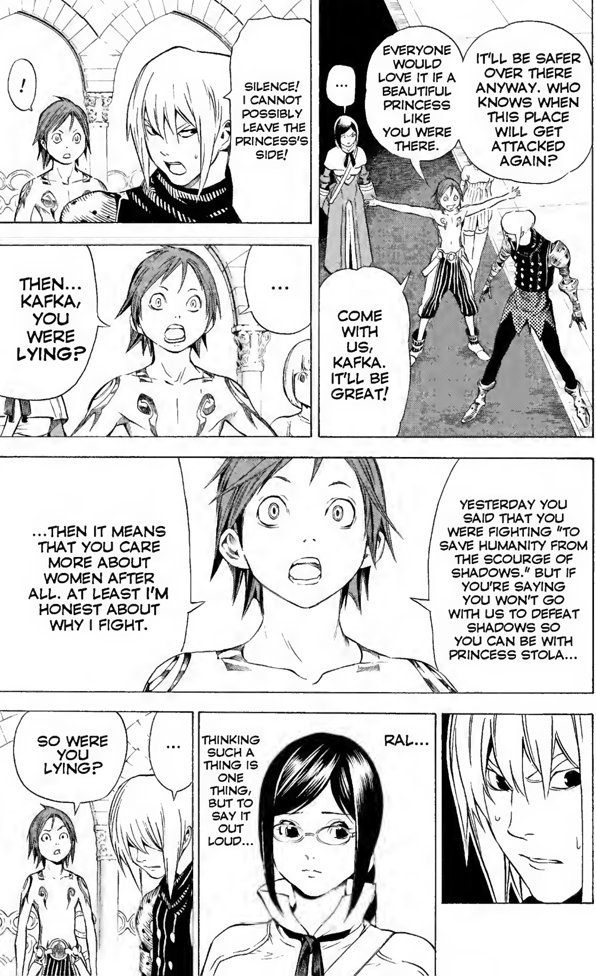

IF I FOUGHT KAFKA NOW, GRAD AND I MIGHT LOSE.
...
WHAT?
NO, NOTHING...
I NEVER THOUGHT RAL WOULD ADMIT TO BEING WEAKER.
WHEN IT COMES TO BATTLE AND STRATEGY, HE REALLY IS SERIOUS.
THAT'S SO AWESOME! HEY, MAYBE I SHOULD'VE HAD GRAD EAT THE WATER BEAST!
JUST IMAGINE! A DRAGON THAT CAN BREATHE FIRE AND WATER-- HE'D BE INVINCIBLE!
RAL, I CAN EAT HIM RIGHT NOW IF YOU WANT.
NAH. AS COOL AS THAT POWER WOULD BE, WE CAN'T DO THAT TO KAFKA, GRAD.
RAL, AFTER BREAKFAST WE'RE GOING PAY OUR RESPECTS TO PRINCESS STOLA AND BE ON OUR WAY. SO GET READY, OKAY?
WHAT? OH, SO WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO THAT CITY WITH ALL THE WOMEN? ALL RIGHT!

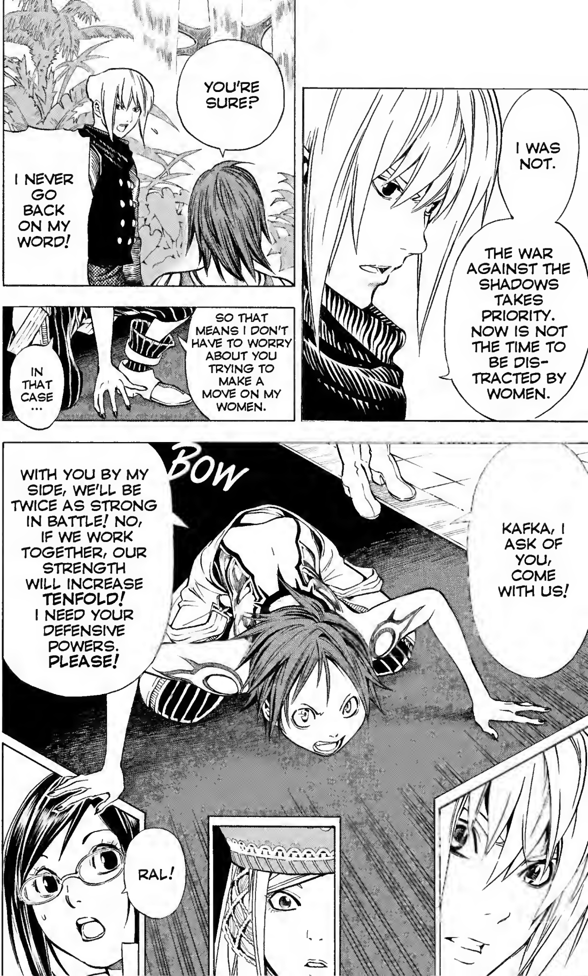

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
"THEY MEAN TO DESTROY OPSQURIA... THREE OF THEM... AND TWO ARE WOMEN. ARE THEY MAD?"
...
"I KNOW THAT FIGHT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH OUT OF YOU, KAFKA.
"WHAT DO YOU SAY? SHALL WE FIGHT TOGETHER ...?"
...
"SHALL WE ...?"
SHF
MIO, RAL, AIA, I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR DEFENDING MY CASTLE.

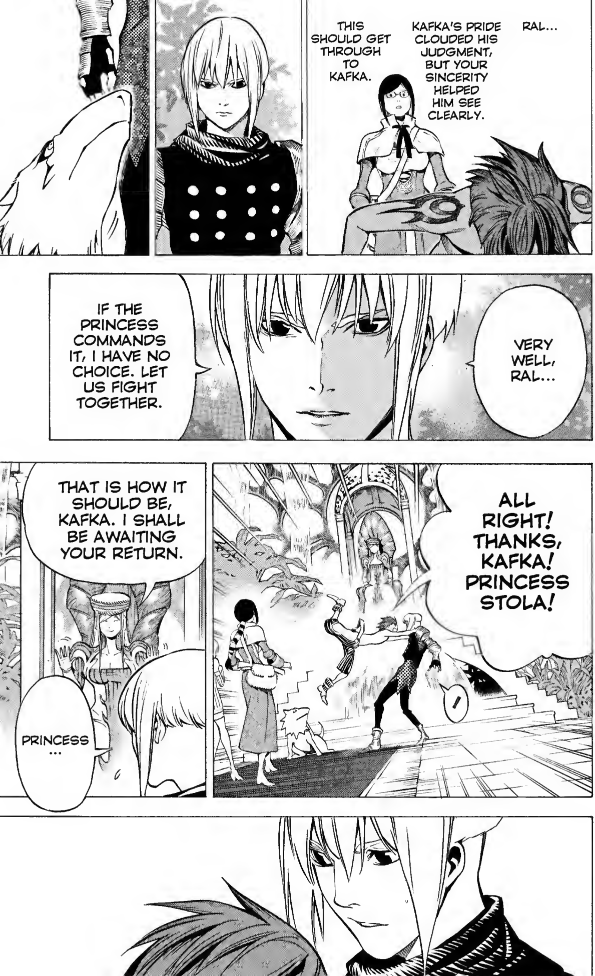

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE CONFIDENCE I NEED TO PROTECT THE PRINCESS AND HER PEOPLE.
I WISH YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS SUCCESS IN DEFEATING OPSQURIA.
I TOO WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE.
PLEASE TAKE THIS AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FROM THE PRINCESS.
GLINT
WHOA!!
OH MY! THAT'S A LOT OF GOLD COINS...
YOU WILL REQUIRE FUNDS TO GET TO LULIRA. THIS SHOULD COVER ALL YOUR NEEDS.
YEAH, ESPECIALLY IN PLACES THAT LET YOU FONDLE GIRLS' BOOBS FOR MON--
WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT?! BE-BESIDES, KIDS CAN'T GO INTO THOSE PLACES!

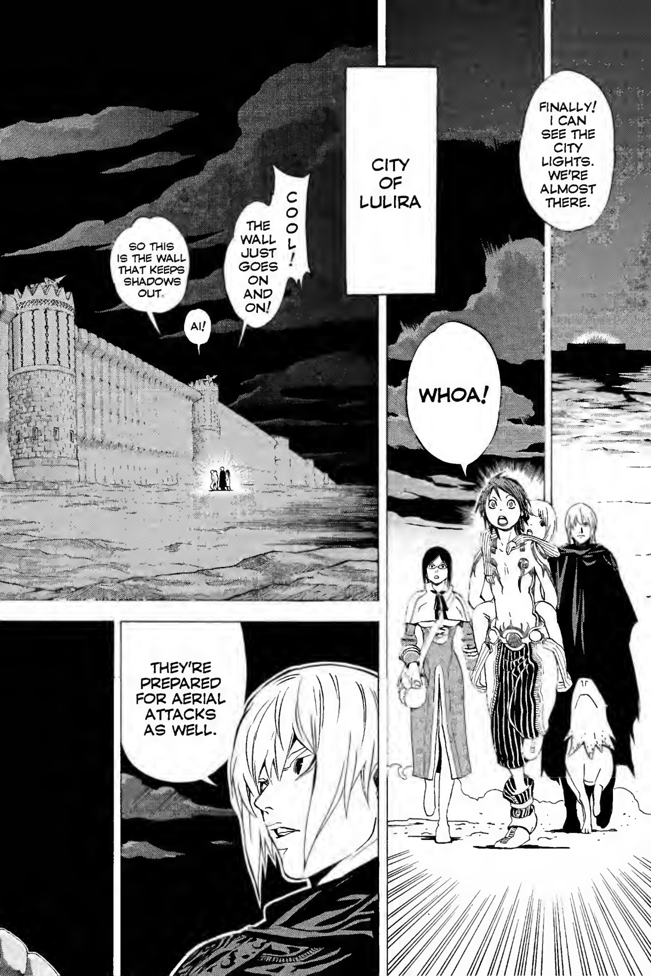

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. LULIRA IS THE LARGEST CITY ON THIS ISLAND. THEY SAY IT IS SURROUNDED BY A MASSIVE WALL THAT KEEPS ALL SHADOWS OUT. ALSO, I HEAR THAT THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INSIGHT REGARDING SHADOWS.
WE ARE HOPING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENEMY THERE BEFORE CROSSING THE SEA. WE WILL PUT THIS MONEY TO GOOD USE.
THAT'S RIGHT. AFTER CROSSING THE SEA THEY'LL BE IN OPSQURIA'S DOMAIN.
THERE IS ONE OTHER MATTER I NEED TO DISCUSS, BRAVE HEROES OF SPHAELITE.
I HAVE A REQUEST.
PLEASE TAKE KAFKA WITH YOU.
!

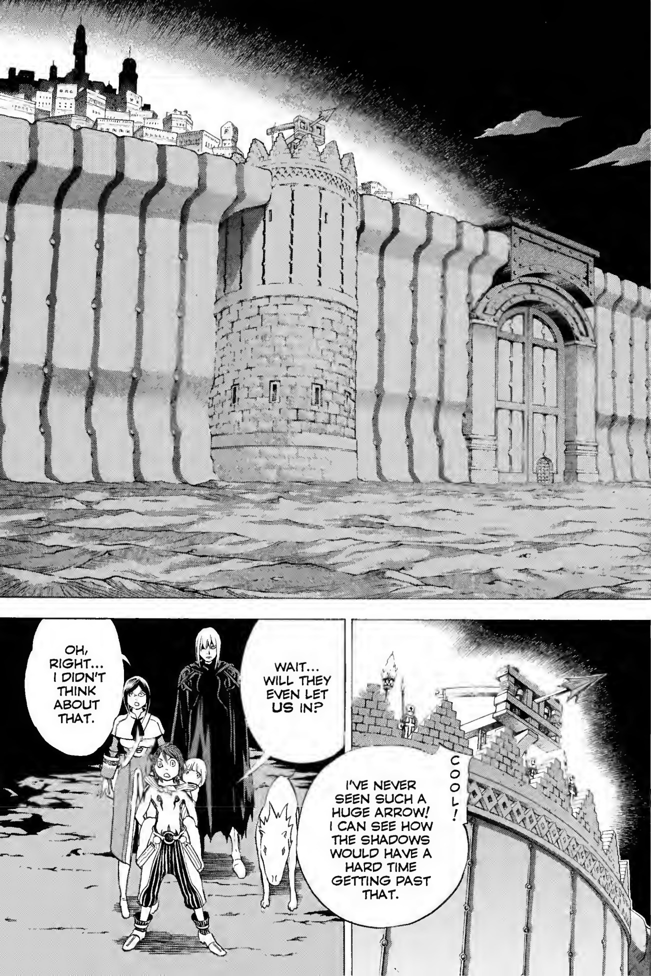

WHAT?! BUT, PRINCESS...!
KAFKA.
STOP LYING TO YOURSELF.
IN YOUR HEART YOU WISH TO JOIN RAL IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST OPSQURIA. DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, MY KNIGHT?
PRINCESS... I COULD NEVER... WHO WILL DEFEND YOU...?!
MY PLACE IS HERE, PROTECTING YOU!
...
...
I WILL TAKE REFUGE AT SPHAELITE CASTLE.
I AM TOLD THAT THE MAN PROTECTING IT POSSESSES A SHADOW AS POWERFUL AS THE DRAGON.
YEAH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

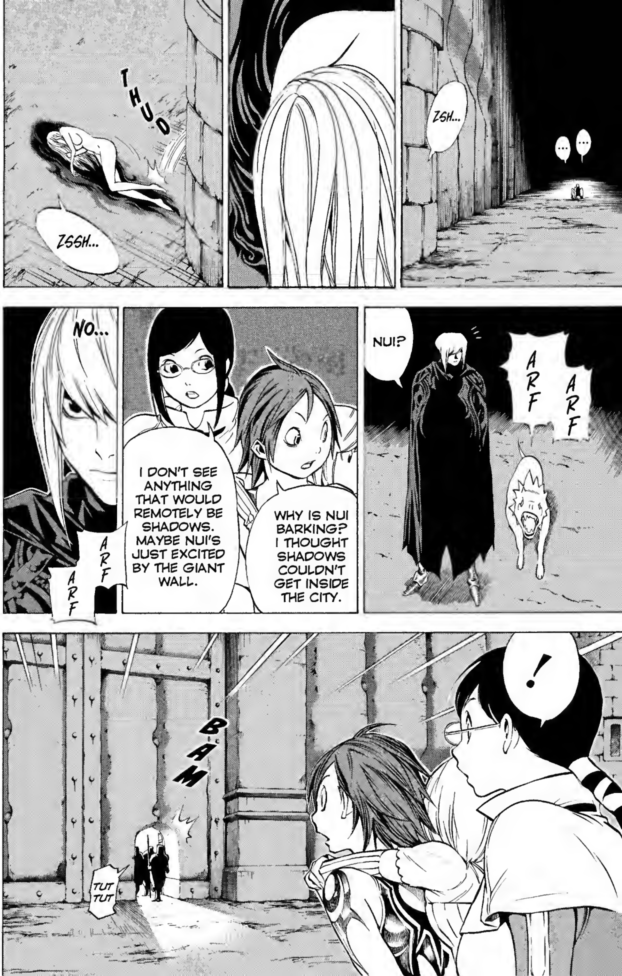

IT'LL BE SAFER OVER THERE ANYWAY. WHO KNOWS WHEN THIS PLACE WILL GET ATTACKED AGAIN?
EVERYONE WOULD LOVE IT IF A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS LIKE YOU WERE THERE.
...
COME WITH US, KAFKA. IT'LL BE GREAT!
SILENCE! I CANNOT POSSIBLY LEAVE THE PRINCESS'S SIDE!
!
...
THEN... KAFKA, YOU WERE LYING?
YESTERDAY YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE FIGHTING "TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM THE SCOURGE OF SHADOWS." BUT IF YOU'RE SAYING YOU WON'T GO WITH US TO DEFEAT SHADOWS SO YOU CAN BE WITH PRINCESS STOLA...
...THEN IT MEANS THAT YOU CARE MORE ABOUT WOMEN AFTER ALL. AT LEAST I'M HONEST ABOUT WHY I FIGHT.
RAL...
THINKING SUCH A THING IS ONE THING, BUT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD...
...
SO WERE YOU LYING?

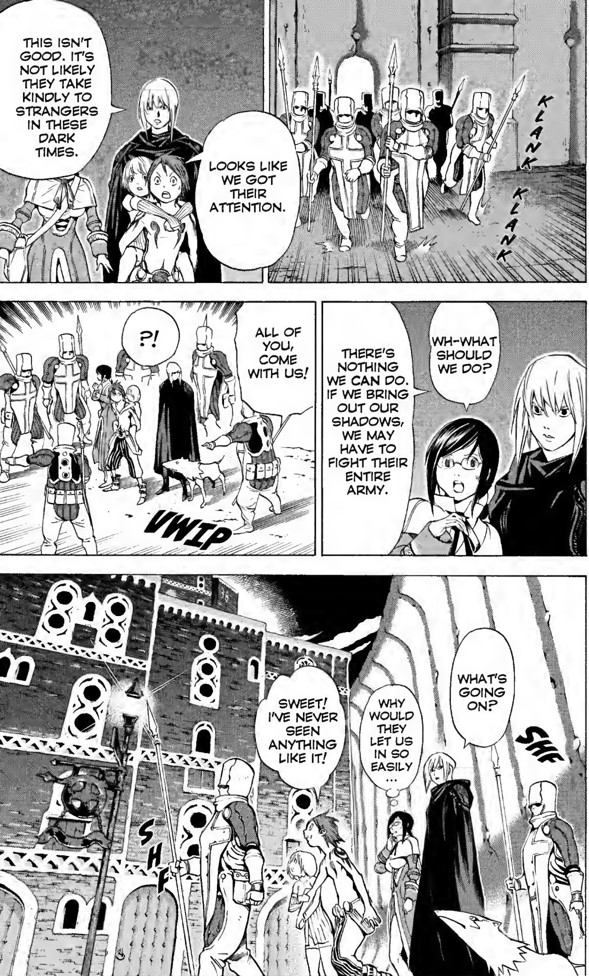

I WAS NOT.
THE WAR AGAINST THE SHADOWS TAKES PRIORITY. NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE DISTRACTED BY WOMEN.
YOU'RE SURE?
I NEVER GO BACK ON MY WORD!
SO THAT MEANS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON MY WOMEN.
IN THAT CASE ...
BOW
KAFKA, I ASK OF YOU, COME WITH US!
WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, WE'LL BE TWICE AS STRONG IN BATTLE! NO, IF WE WORK TOGETHER, OUR STRENGTH WILL INCREASE TENFOLD! I NEED YOUR DEFENSIVE POWERS. PLEASE!
RAL!

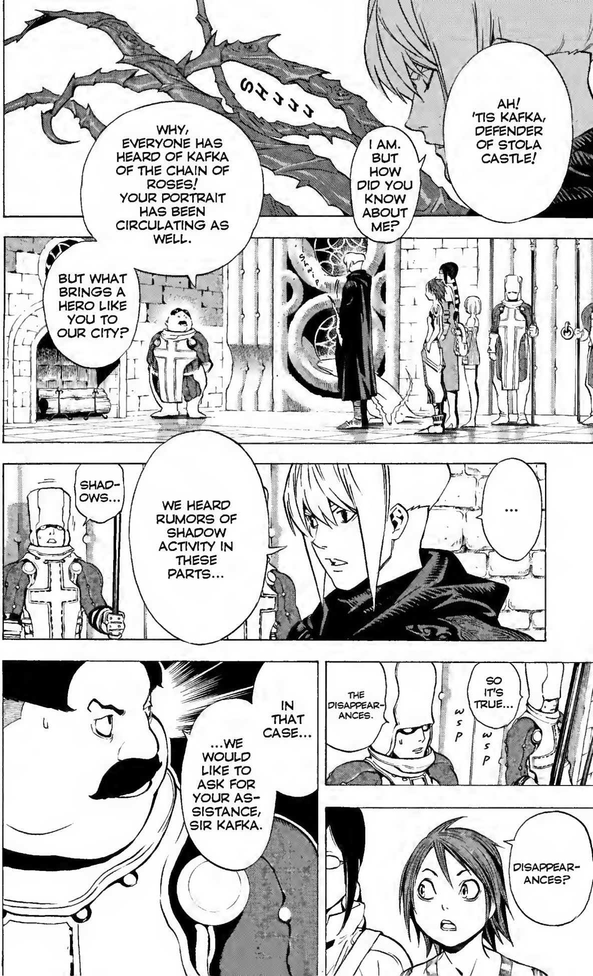

RAL...
KAFKA'S PRIDE CLOUDED HIS JUDGMENT, BUT YOUR SINCERITY HELPED HIM SEE CLEARLY.
THIS SHOULD GET THROUGH TO KAFKA.
VERY WELL, RAL...
IF THE PRINCESS COMMANDS IT, I HAVE NO CHOICE. LET US FIGHT TOGETHER.
ALL RIGHT! THANKS, KAFKA! PRINCESS STOLA!
!
THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE, KAFKA. I SHALL BE AWAITING YOUR RETURN.
PRINCESS...

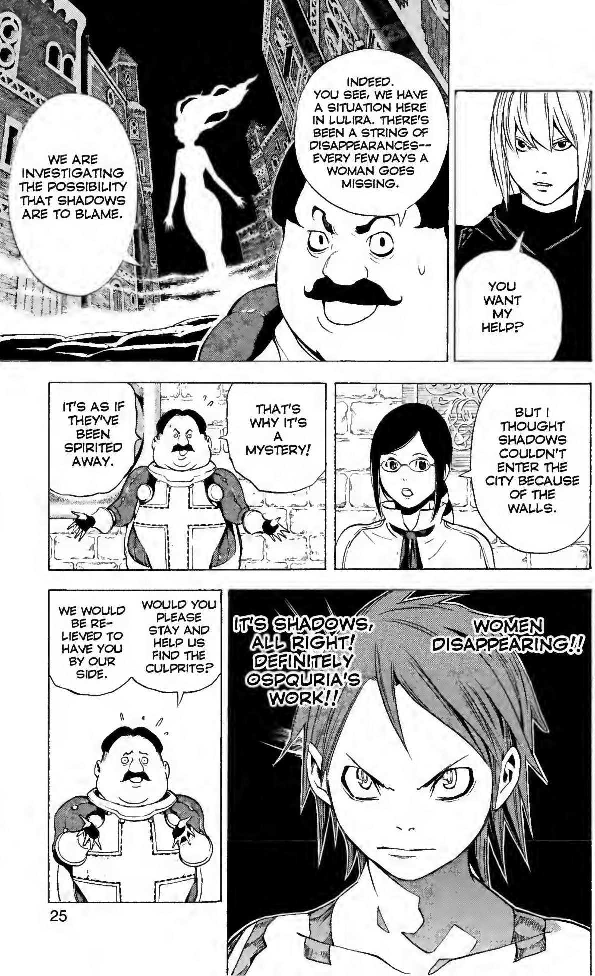

FINALLY! I CAN SEE THE CITY LIGHTS. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
CITY OF LULIRA
WHOA!
COOL!
THE WALL JUST GOES ON AND ON!
AI!
SO THIS IS THE WALL THAT KEEPS SHADOWS OUT.
THEY'RE PREPARED FOR AERIAL ATTACKS AS WELL.

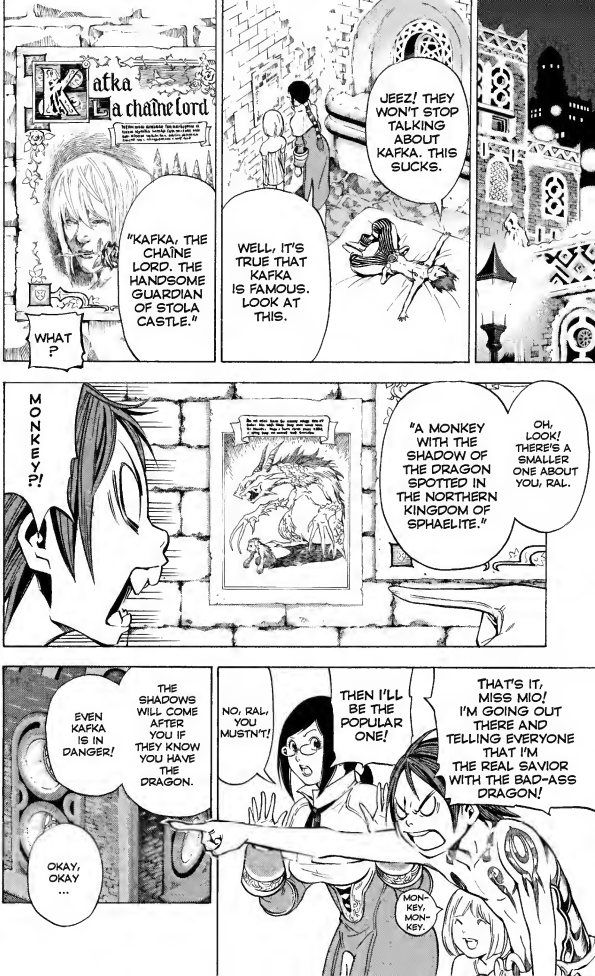

COOL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A HUGE ARROW! I CAN SEE HOW THE SHADOWS WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING PAST THAT.
WAIT... WILL THEY EVEN LET US IN?
OH, RIGHT... I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT.

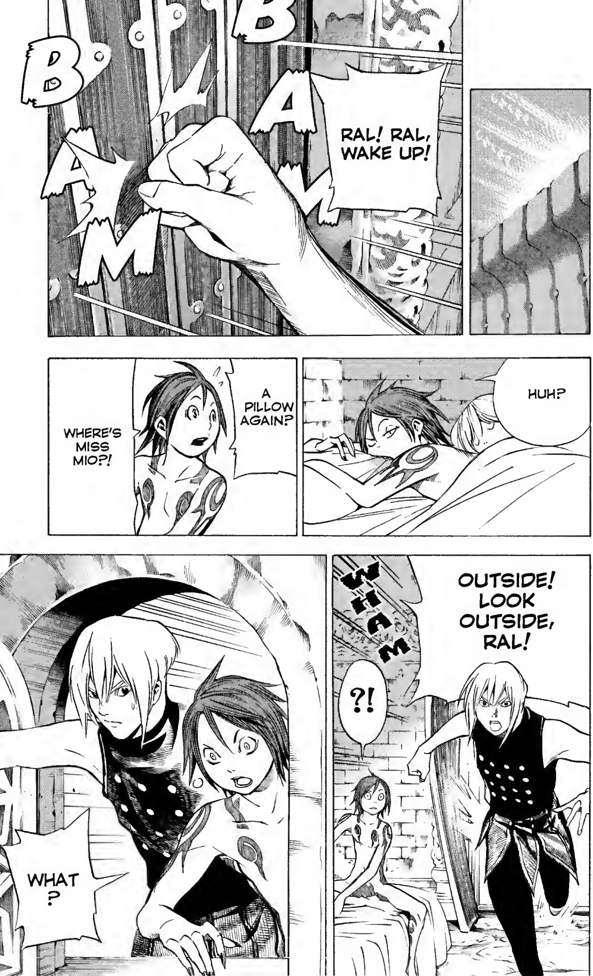

...
...
ZSH...
THUD
ZSSH...
NUI?
ARF ARF
WHY IS NUI BARKING? I THOUGHT SHADOWS COULDN'T GET INSIDE THE CITY.
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT WOULD REMOTELY BE SHADOWS. MAYBE NUI'S JUST EXCITED BY THE GIANT WALL.
NO...
ARF ARF
!
BAM
TUT TUT

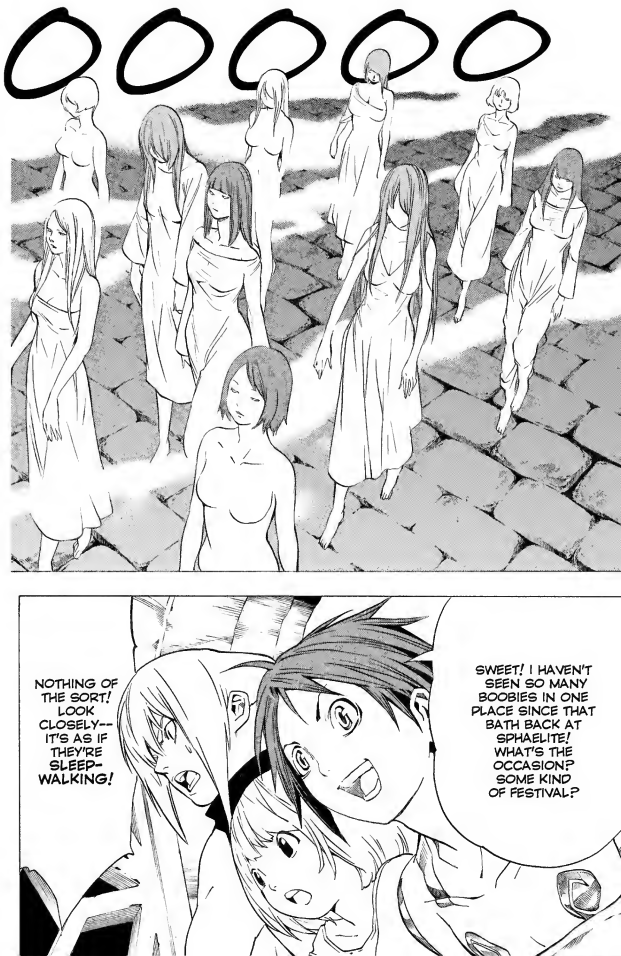

THIS ISN'T GOOD. IT'S NOT LIKELY THEY TAKE KINDLY TO STRANGERS IN THESE DARK TIMES.
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT THEIR ATTENTION.
KLANK KLANK
?!
ALL OF YOU, COME WITH US!
VWIP
WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. IF WE BRING OUT OUR SHADOWS, WE MAY HAVE TO FIGHT THEIR ENTIRE ARMY.
SWEET! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
WHY WOULD THEY LET US IN SO EASILY...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHF
SHF

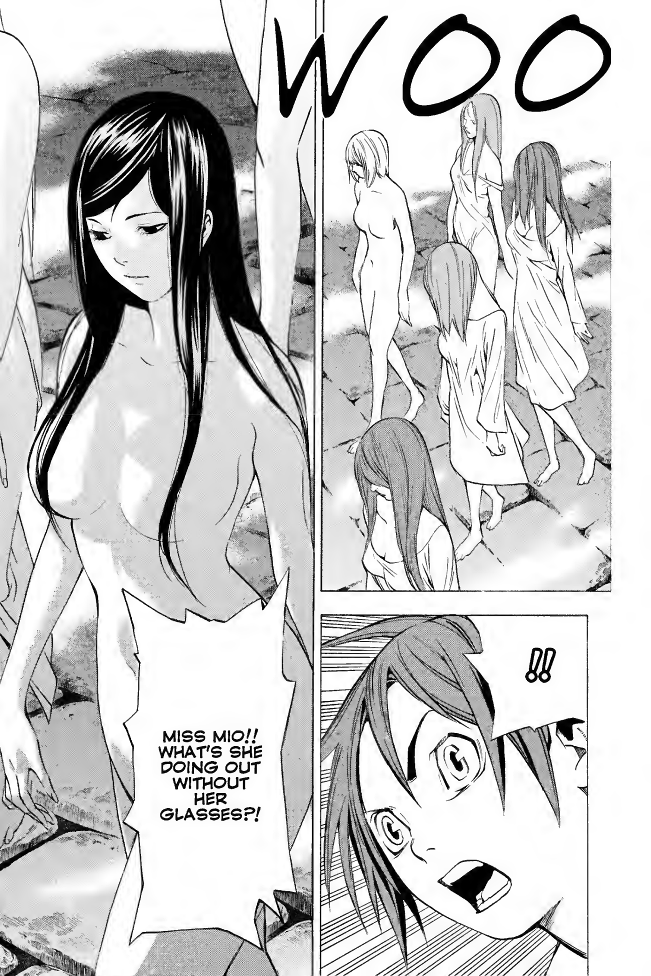

AH! 'TIS KAFKA, DEFENDER OF STOLA CASTLE!
SHIII
I AM. BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
WHY, EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF KAFKA OF THE CHAIN OF ROSES! YOUR PORTRAIT HAS BEEN CIRCULATING AS WELL.
SHWIP
BUT WHAT BRINGS A HERO LIKE YOU TO OUR CITY?
...
WE HEARD RUMORS OF SHADOW ACTIVITY IN THESE PARTS...
SHADOWS...
SO IT'S TRUE...
WSP
WSP
THE DISAPPEARANCES.
DISAPPEARANCES?
IN THAT CASE...
...WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, SIR KAFKA.


YOU WANT MY HELP?
INDEED. YOU SEE, WE HAVE A SITUATION HERE IN LULIRA. THERE'S BEEN A STRING OF DISAPPEARANCES-- EVERY FEW DAYS A WOMAN GOES MISSING.
WE ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHADOWS ARE TO BLAME.
BUT I THOUGHT SHADOWS COULDN'T ENTER THE CITY BECAUSE OF THE WALLS.
THAT'S WHY IT'S A MYSTERY!
IT'S AS IF THEY'VE BEEN SPIRITED AWAY.
WOULD YOU PLEASE STAY AND HELP US FIND THE CULPRITS?
WE WOULD BE RELIEVED TO HAVE YOU BY OUR SIDE.
WOMEN DISAPPEARING!!
IT'S SHADOWS, ALL RIGHT! DEFINITELY OSPQURIA'S WORK!!


JEEZ! THEY WON'T STOP TALKING ABOUT KAFKA. THIS SUCKS.
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT KAFKA IS FAMOUS. LOOK AT THIS.
Kafka La chaîne Lord
"KAFKA, THE CHAÎNE LORD. THE HANDSOME GUARDIAN OF STOLA CASTLE."
WHAT?
OH, LOOK! THERE'S A SMALLER ONE ABOUT YOU, RAL.
"A MONKEY WITH THE SHADOW OF THE DRAGON SPOTTED IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF SPHAELITE."
MONKEY?!
THAT'S IT, MISS MIO! I'M GOING OUT THERE AND TELLING EVERYONE THAT I'M THE REAL SAVIOR WITH THE BAD-ASS DRAGON!
THEN I'LL BE THE POPULAR ONE!
NO, RAL, YOU MUSTN'T!
MONKEY, MONKEY.
THE SHADOWS WILL COME AFTER YOU IF THEY KNOW YOU HAVE THE DRAGON.
EVEN KAFKA IS IN DANGER!
OKAY, OKAY ...

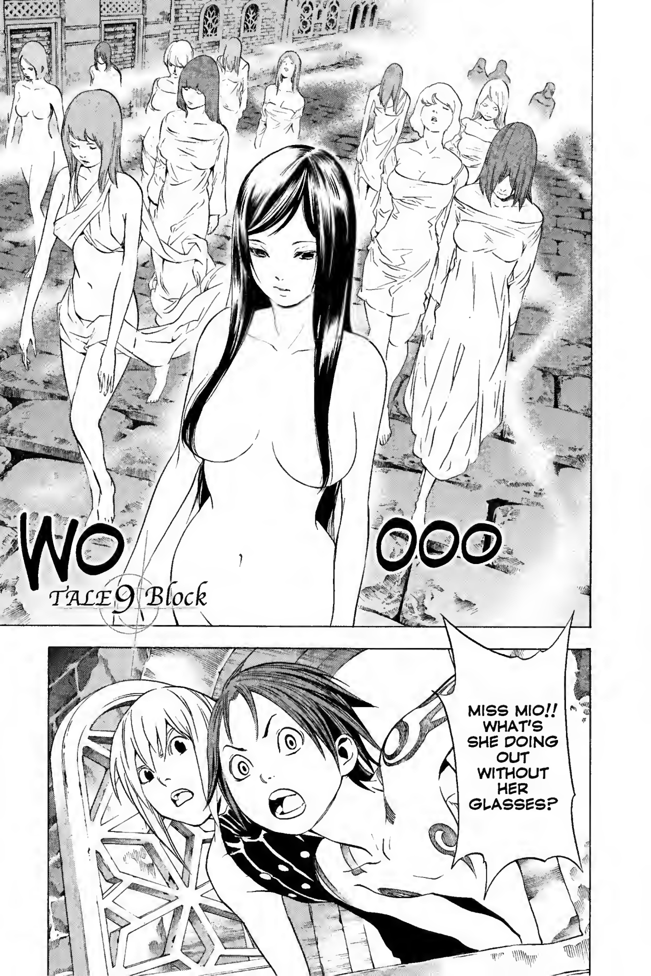

BAM
BAM
RAL! RAL, WAKE UP!
HUH?
A PILLOW AGAIN?
WHERE'S MISS MIO?!
OUTSIDE! LOOK OUTSIDE, RAL!
WHAM
?!
WHAT?

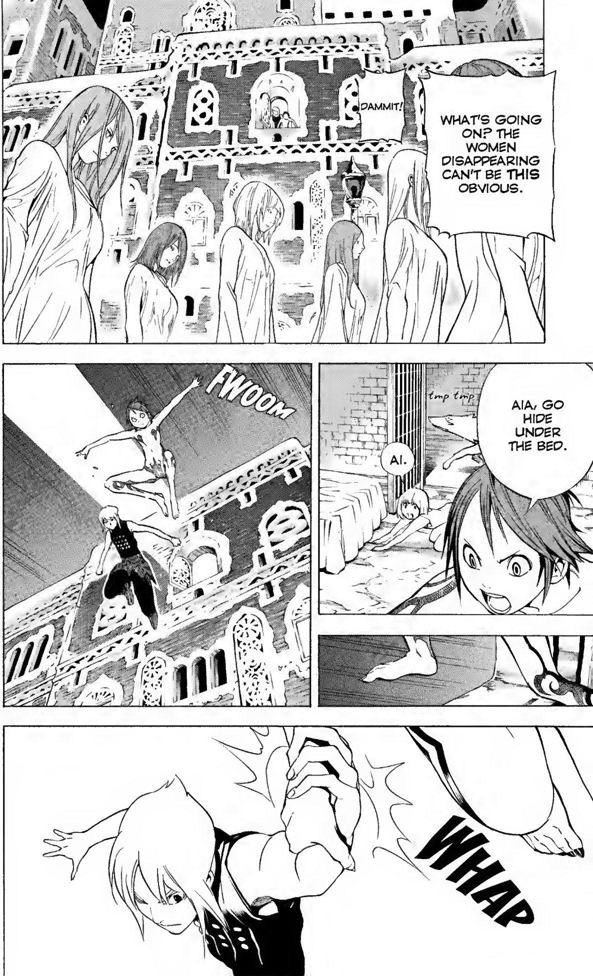

OOOOO
SWEET! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY BOOBIES IN ONE PLACE SINCE THAT BATH BACK AT SPHAELITE! WHAT'S THE OCCASION? SOME KIND OF FESTIVAL?
NOTHING OF THE SORT! LOOK CLOSELY-- IT'S AS IF THEY'RE SLEEP-WALKING!

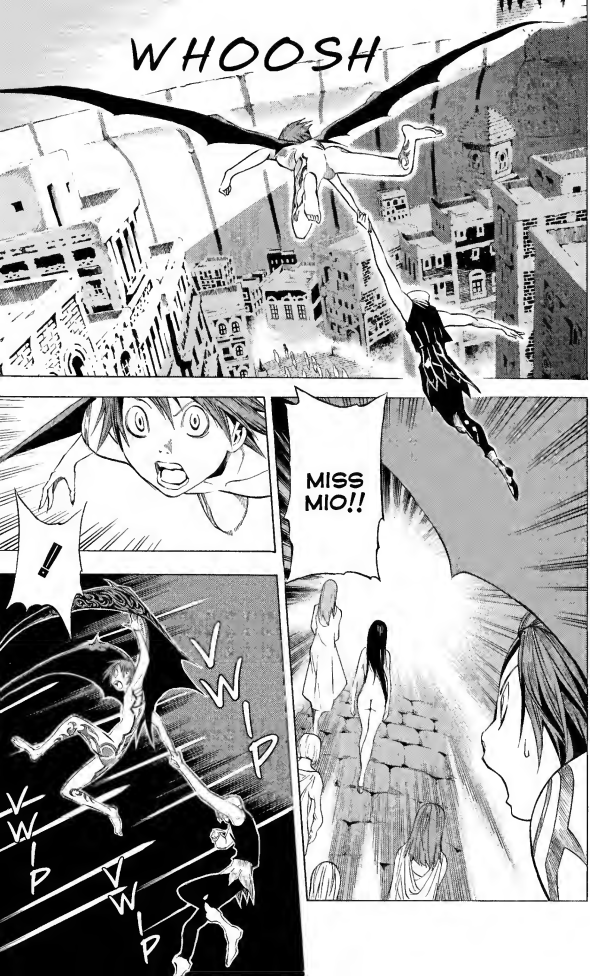

WOO
!!
MISS MIO!! WHAT'S SHE DOING OUT WITHOUT HER GLASSES?!

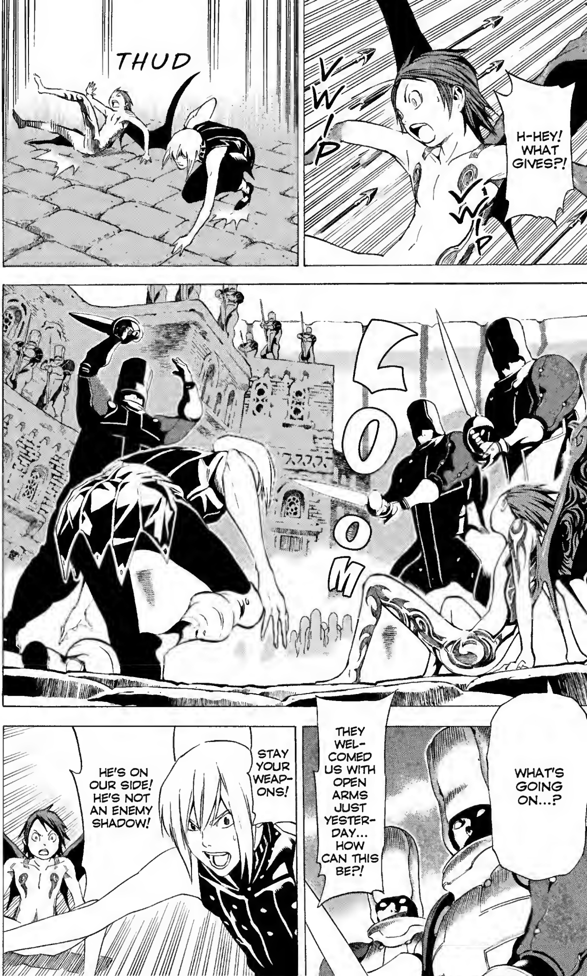
RalΩGrad

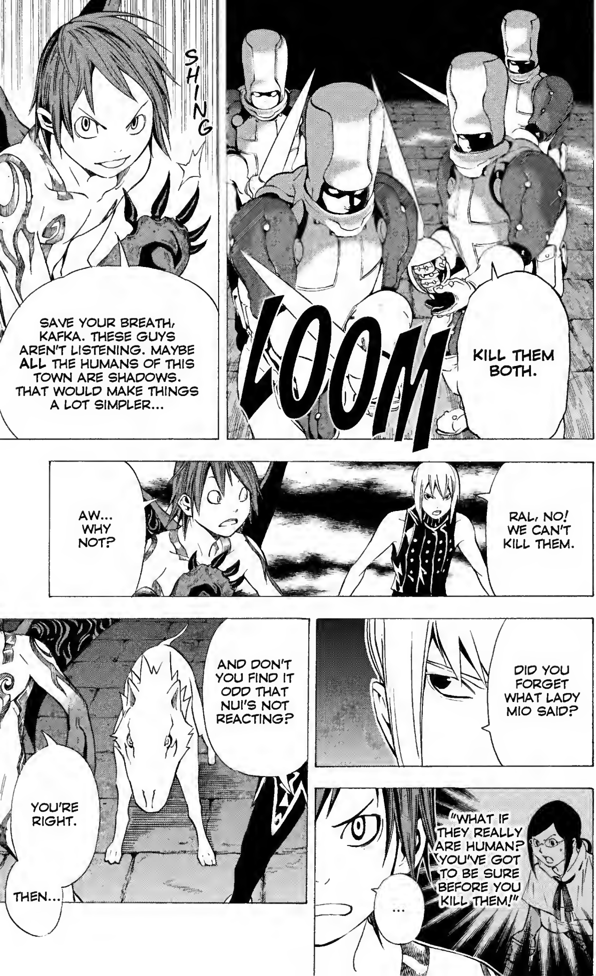
TALE 9 Block

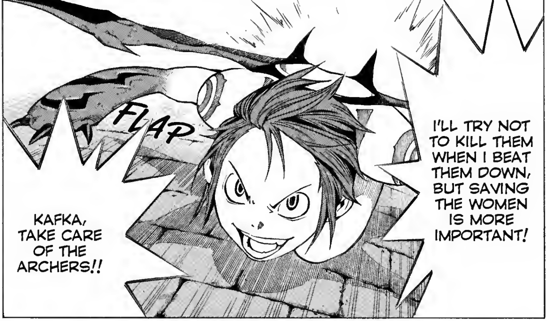

WO OOO
MISS MIO!! WHAT'S SHE DOING OUT WITHOUT HER GLASSES?

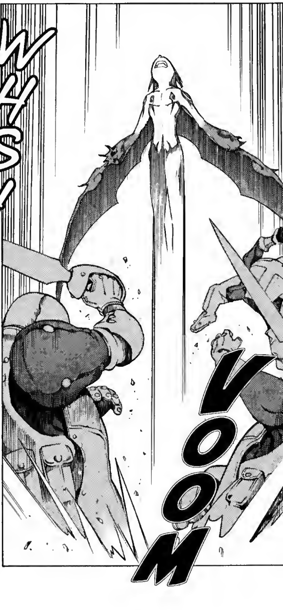

WHAT'S GOING ON? THE WOMEN DISAPPEARING CAN'T BE THIS OBVIOUS.
DAMMIT!
AIA, GO HIDE UNDER THE BED.
tmp tmp
AI.
FWOOM
WHAP

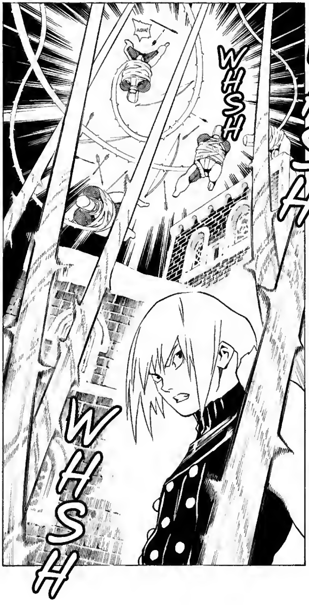

WHOOSH
MISS MIO!!
!
VWIP
VWIP
VWIP

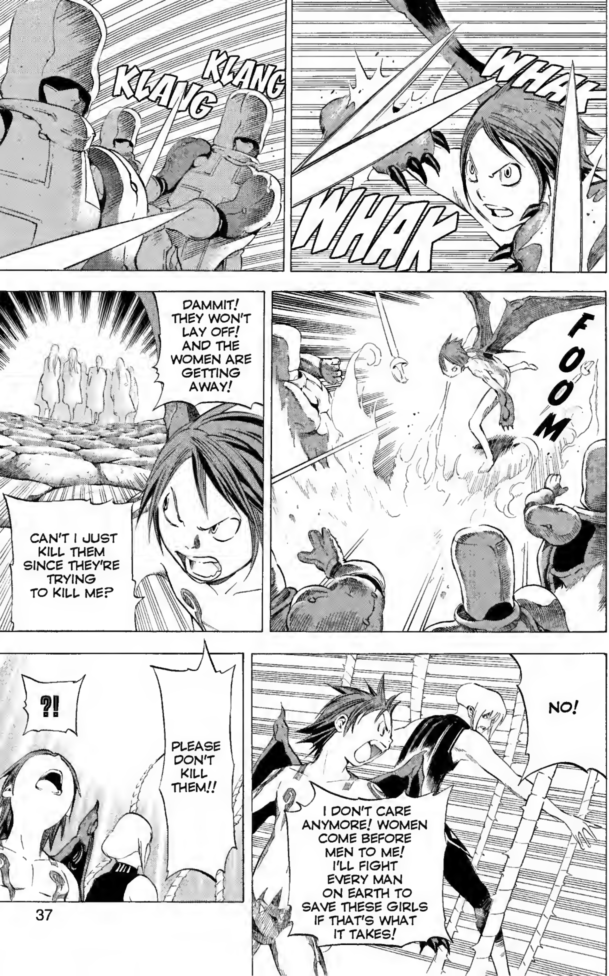

VWIP
VWIP
H-HEY! WHAT GIVES?!
THUD
GOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
THEY WELCOMED US WITH OPEN ARMS JUST YESTERDAY... HOW CAN THIS BE?!
STAY YOUR WEAPONS!
HE'S ON OUR SIDE! HE'S NOT AN ENEMY SHADOW!

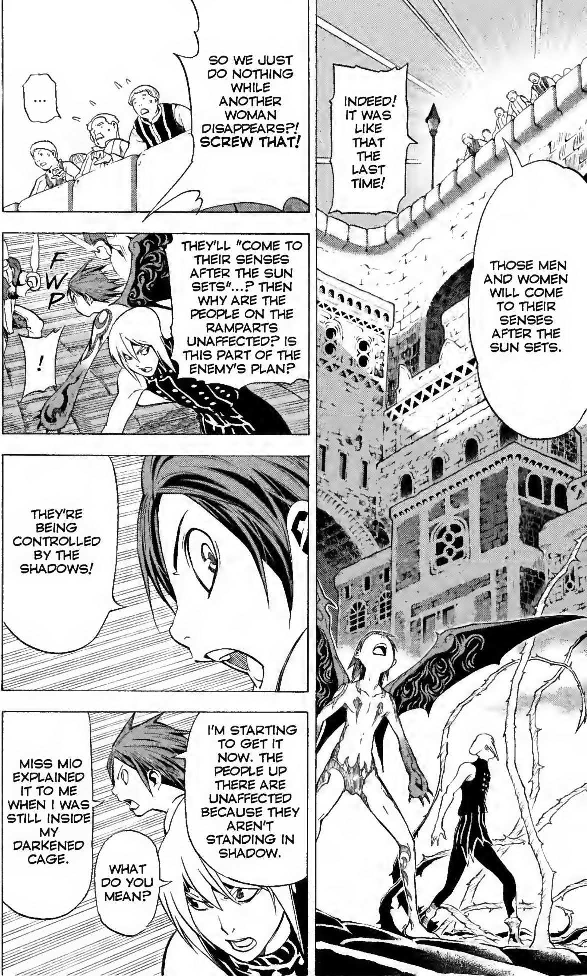

KILL THEM BOTH.
LOOM
SHING
SAVE YOUR BREATH, KAFKA. THESE GUYS AREN'T LISTENING. MAYBE **ALL** THE HUMANS OF THIS TOWN ARE SHADOWS. THAT WOULD MAKE THINGS A LOT SIMPLER...
RAL, NO! WE CAN'T KILL THEM.
AW... WHY NOT?
DID YOU FORGET WHAT LADY MIO SAID?
"WHAT IF THEY REALLY ARE HUMAN? YOU'VE GOT TO BE SURE BEFORE YOU KILL THEM!"
...
AND DON'T YOU FIND IT ODD THAT NUI'S NOT REACTING?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN...

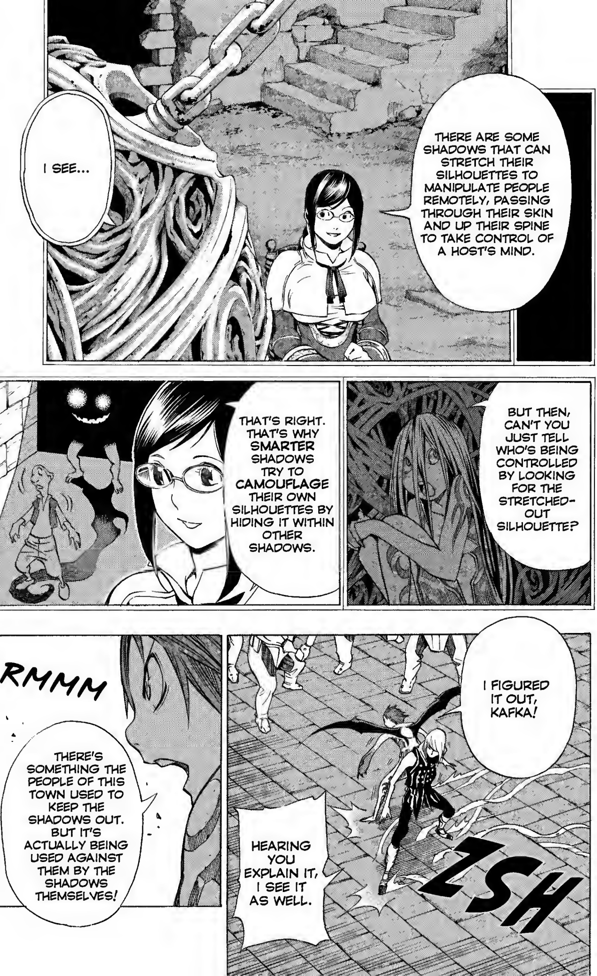

I'LL TRY NOT TO KILL THEM WHEN I BEAT THEM DOWN, BUT SAVING THE WOMEN IS MORE IMPORTANT!
FLAP
KAFKA, TAKE CARE OF THE ARCHERS!!

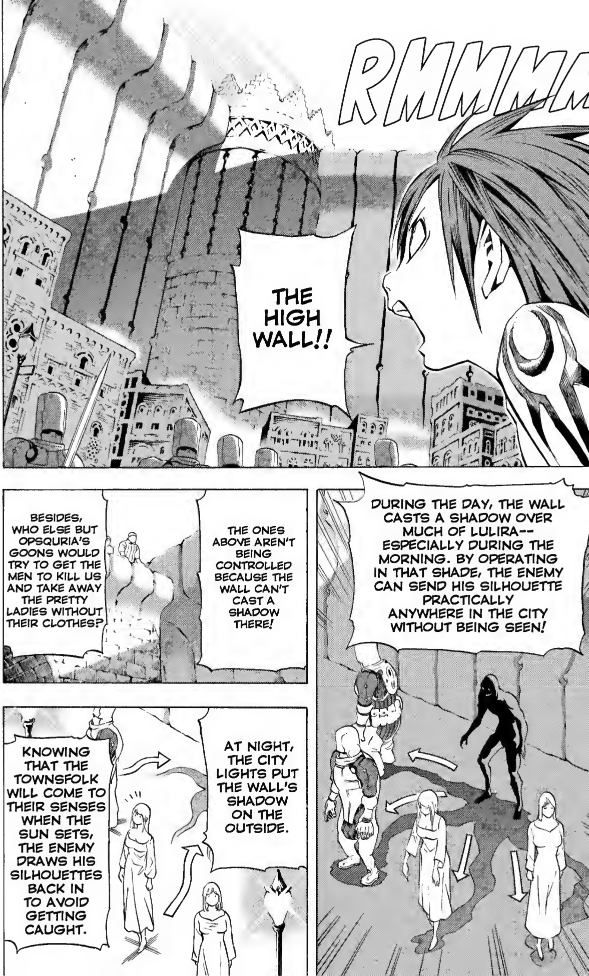

VOOM

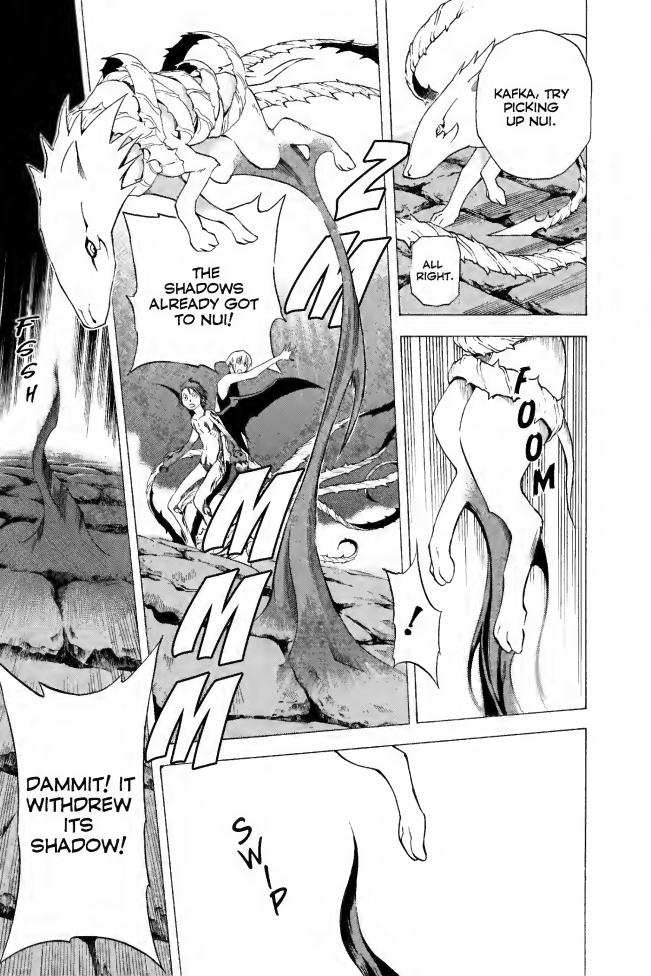

WHSH
WHSH
AGH!
WHSH

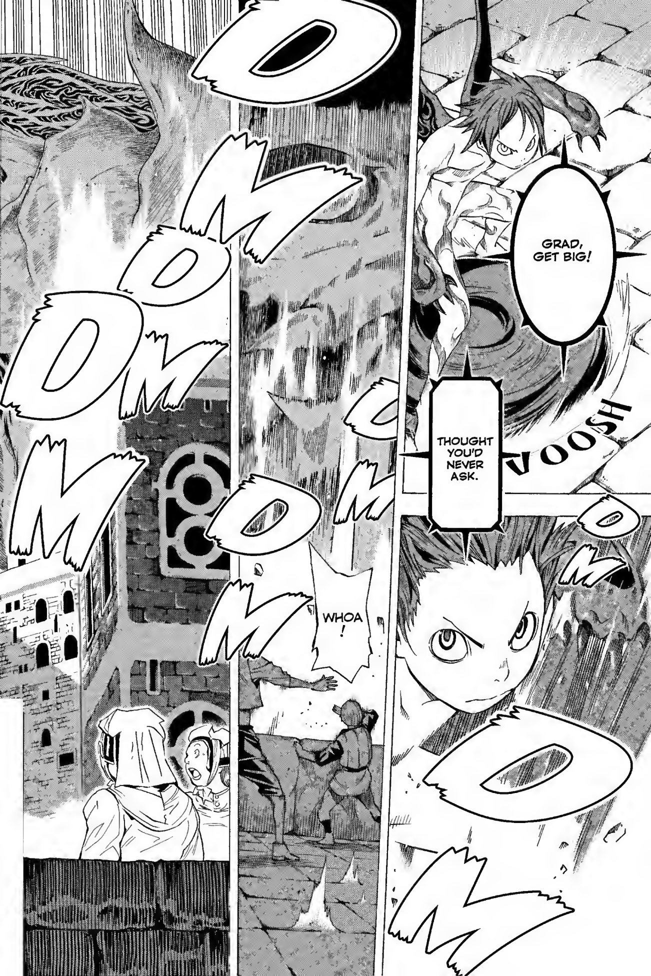

KLANG
KLANG
WHAK
WHAK
DAMMIT! THEY WON'T LAY OFF! AND THE WOMEN ARE GETTING AWAY!
CAN'T I JUST KILL THEM SINCE THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL ME?
FOOM
PLEASE DON'T KILL THEM!!
?!
NO!
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! WOMEN COME BEFORE MEN TO ME! I'LL FIGHT EVERY MAN ON EARTH TO SAVE THESE GIRLS IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES!

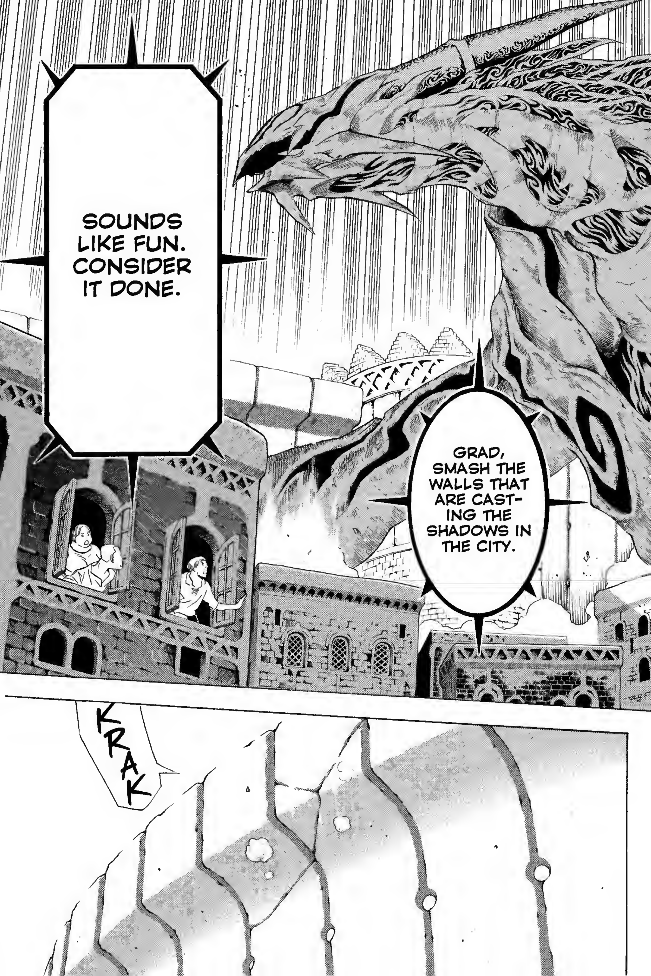

THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES AFTER THE SUN SETS.
INDEED! IT WAS LIKE THAT THE LAST TIME!
SO WE JUST DO NOTHING WHILE ANOTHER WOMAN DISAPPEARS?! SCREW THAT!
...
THEY'LL "COME TO THEIR SENSES AFTER THE SUN SETS"...? THEN WHY ARE THE PEOPLE ON THE RAMPARTS UNAFFECTED? IS THIS PART OF THE ENEMY'S PLAN?
FWP
!
THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY THE SHADOWS!
I'M STARTING TO GET IT NOW. THE PEOPLE UP THERE ARE UNAFFECTED BECAUSE THEY AREN'T STANDING IN SHADOW.
MISS MIO EXPLAINED IT TO ME WHEN I WAS STILL INSIDE MY DARKENED CAGE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

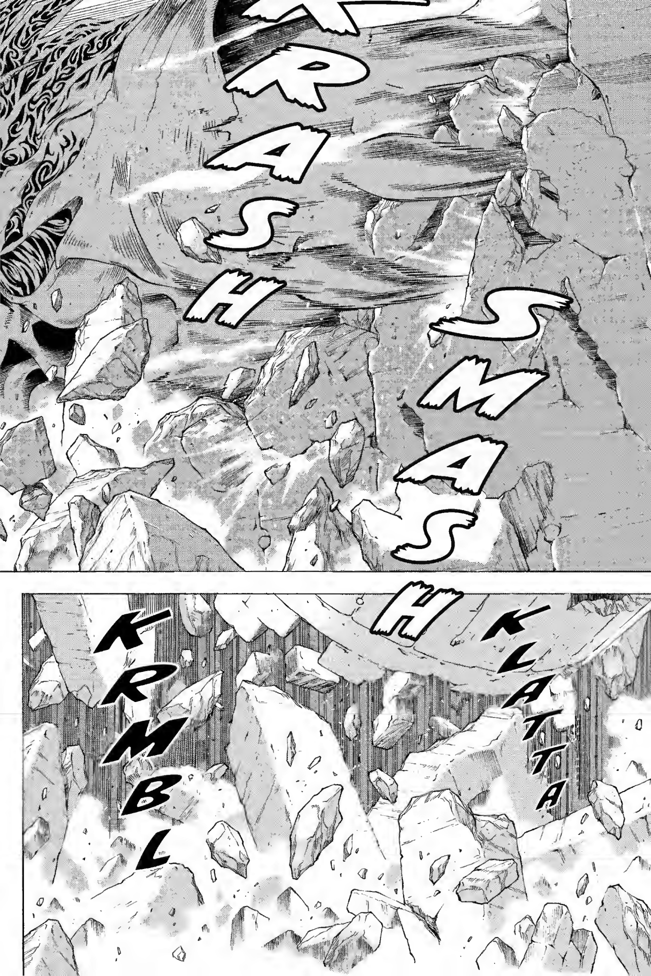

THERE ARE SOME SHADOWS THAT CAN STRETCH THEIR SILHOUETTES TO MANIPULATE PEOPLE REMOTELY, PASSING THROUGH THEIR SKIN AND UP THEIR SPINE TO TAKE CONTROL OF A HOST'S MIND.
I SEE...
BUT THEN, CAN'T YOU JUST TELL WHO'S BEING CONTROLLED BY LOOKING FOR THE STRETCHED-OUT SILHOUETTE?
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S WHY SMARTER SHADOWS TRY TO CAMOUFLAGE THEIR OWN SILHOUETTES BY HIDING IT WITHIN OTHER SHADOWS.
I FIGURED IT OUT, KAFKA!
HEARING YOU EXPLAIN IT, I SEE IT AS WELL.
ZSH
RMMM
THERE'S SOMETHING THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN USED TO KEEP THE SHADOWS OUT. BUT IT'S ACTUALLY BEING USED AGAINST THEM BY THE SHADOWS THEMSELVES!

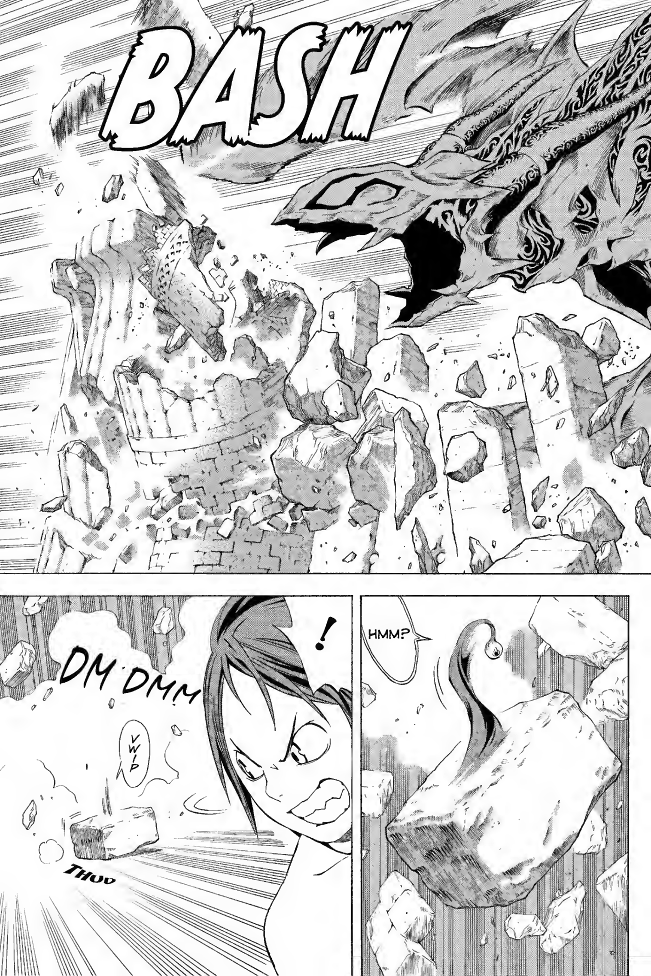

RMMMM
THE HIGH WALL!!
DURING THE DAY, THE WALL CASTS A SHADOW OVER MUCH OF LULIRA-- ESPECIALLY DURING THE MORNING. BY OPERATING IN THAT SHADE, THE ENEMY CAN SEND HIS SILHOUETTE PRACTICALLY ANYWHERE IN THE CITY WITHOUT BEING SEEN!
THE ONES ABOVE AREN'T BEING CONTROLLED BECAUSE THE WALL CAN'T CAST A SHADOW THERE!
BESIDES, WHO ELSE BUT OPSQURIA'S GOONS WOULD TRY TO GET THE MEN TO KILL US AND TAKE AWAY THE PRETTY LADIES WITHOUT THEIR CLOTHES?
AT NIGHT, THE CITY LIGHTS PUT THE WALL'S SHADOW ON THE OUTSIDE.
KNOWING THAT THE TOWNSFOLK WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES WHEN THE SUN SETS, THE ENEMY DRAWS HIS SILHOUETTES BACK IN TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT.

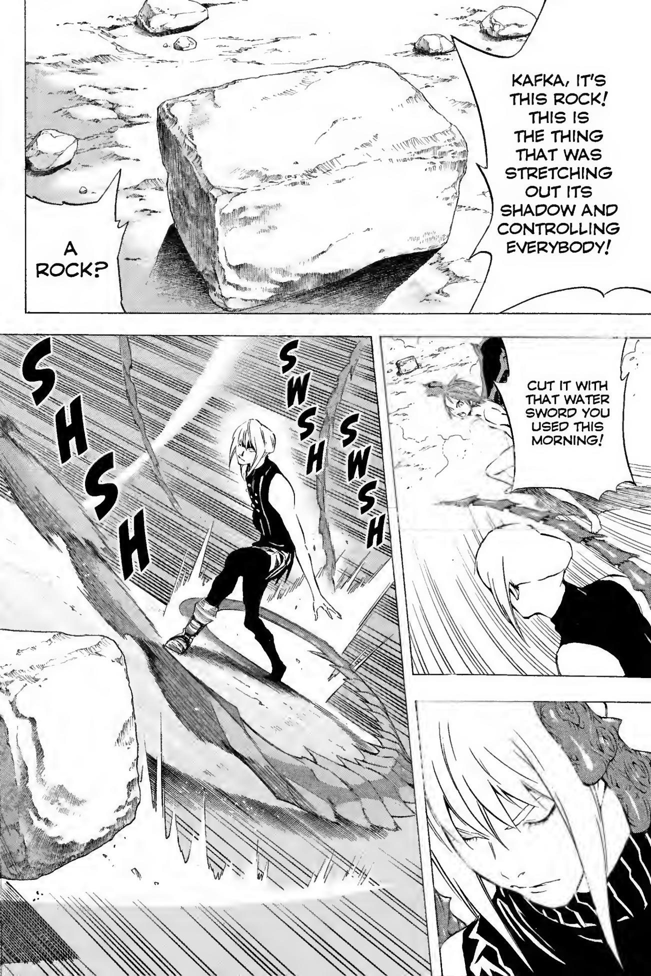

KAFKA, TRY PICKING UP NUI.
ALL RIGHT.
THE SHADOWS ALREADY GOT TO NUI!
FSSH
ZMMMMM
FOOM
!
DAMMIT! IT WITHDREW ITS SHADOW!
SWIP

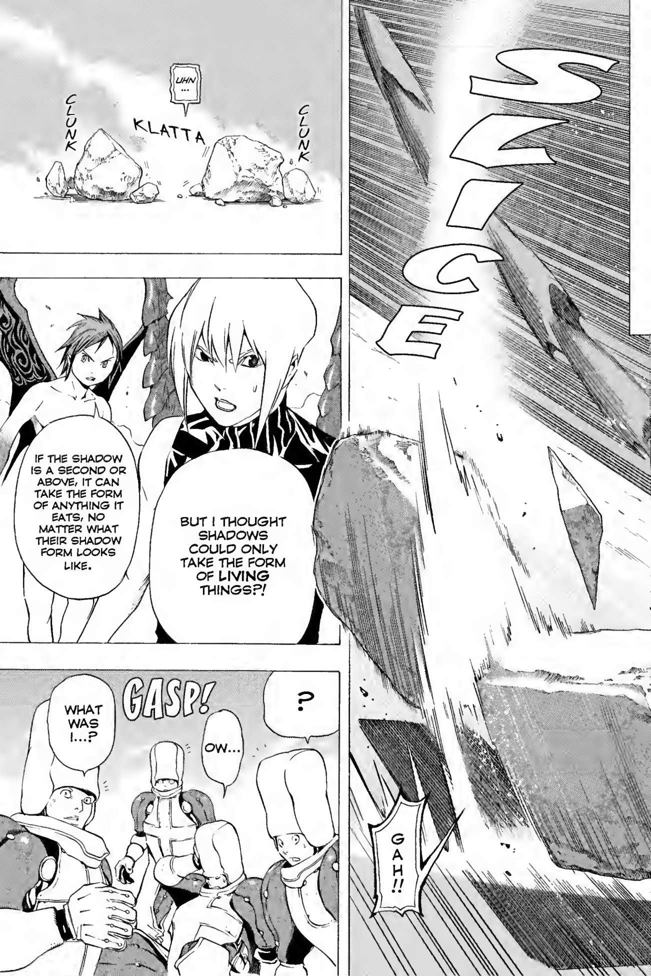

GRAD, GET BIG!
VOOSH
THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.
DOM
DOM
DOM DOM
WHOA!
DOM DOM DOM

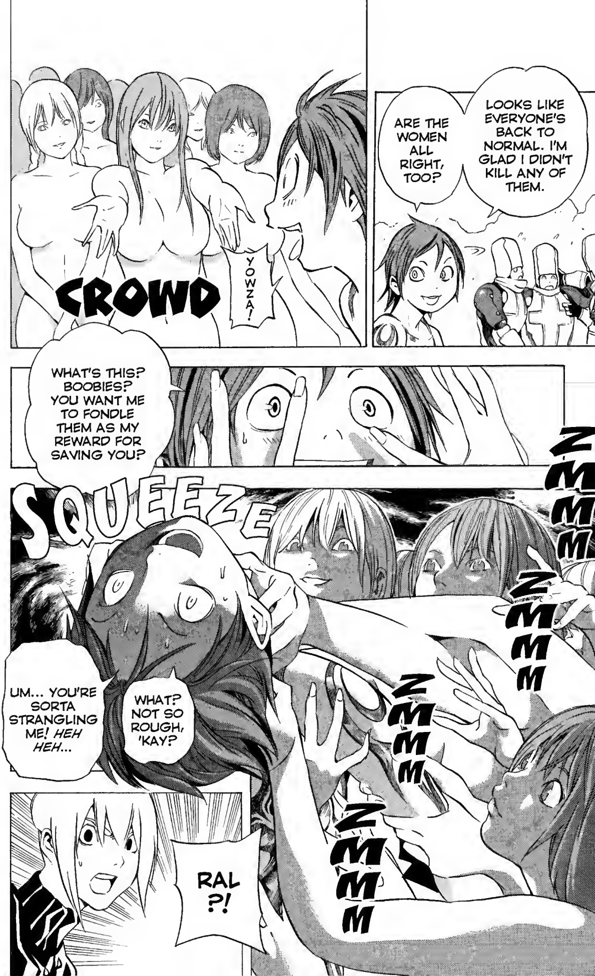

GRAD, SMASH THE WALLS THAT ARE CASTING THE SHADOWS IN THE CITY.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN. CONSIDER IT DONE.
KRAK

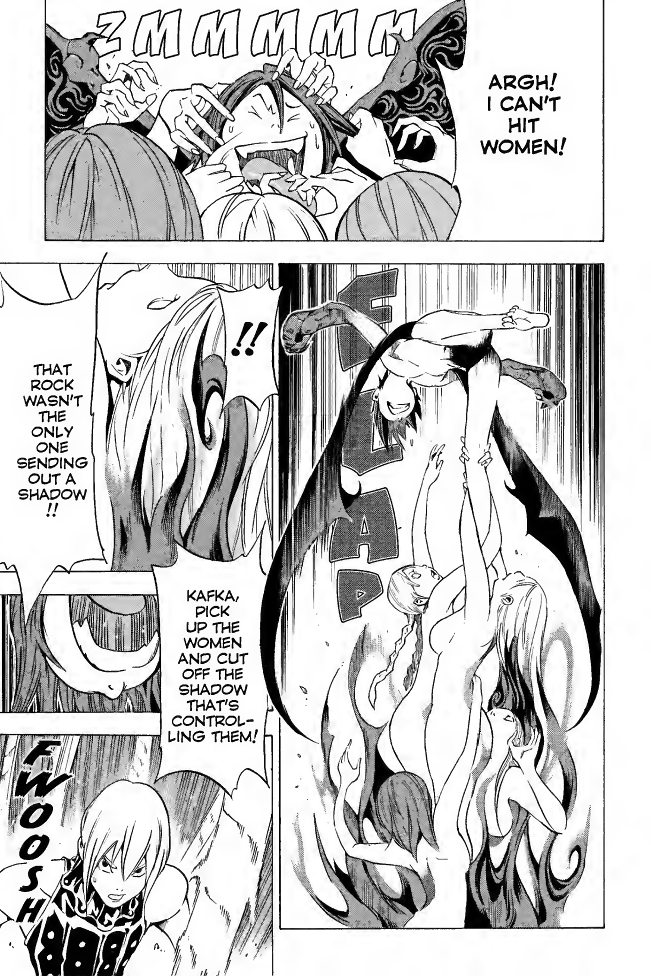

SMASH
KRASH
KLATTA
KRMBL

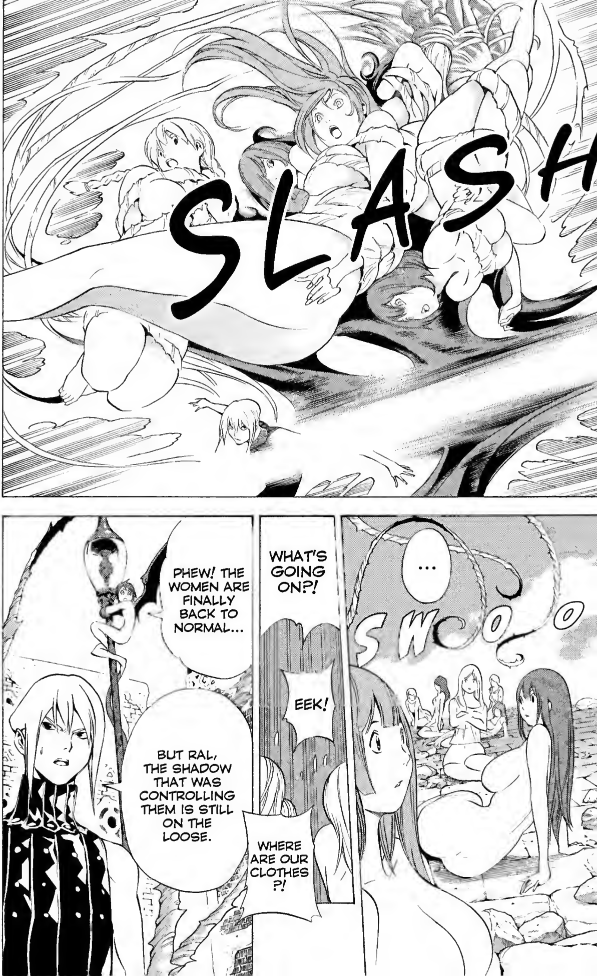

BASH
HMM?
!
DM DMM
VWIP
THUD

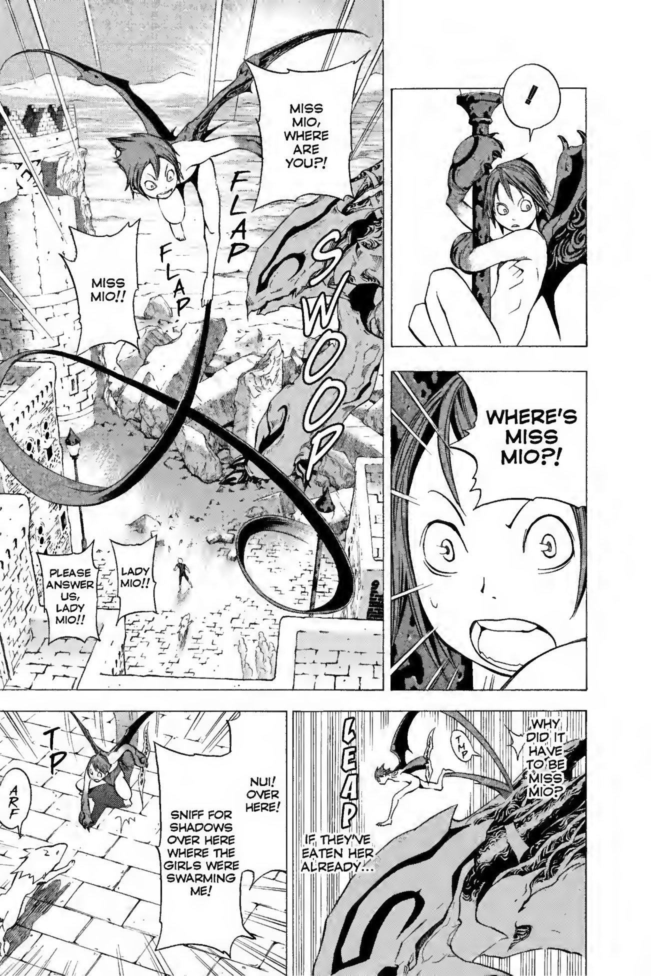

KAFKA, IT'S THIS ROCK! THIS IS THE THING THAT WAS STRETCHING OUT ITS SHADOW AND CONTROLLING EVERYBODY!
A ROCK?
CUT IT WITH THAT WATER SWORD YOU USED THIS MORNING!
SWSH SWSH
SHSH

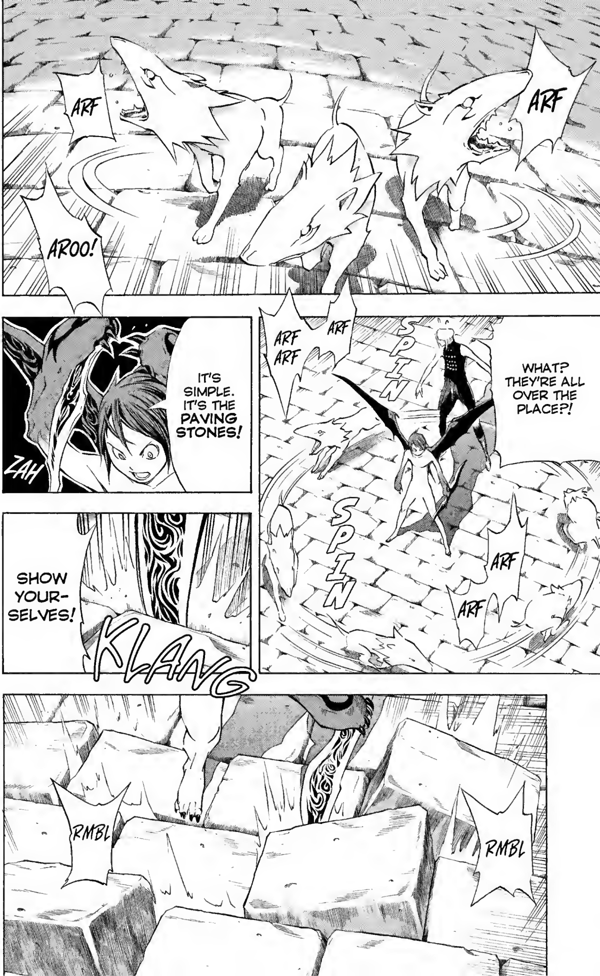

SLICE
GAH!!
CLUNK
UHN...
KLATTA
CLUNK
BUT I THOUGHT SHADOWS COULD ONLY TAKE THE FORM OF LIVING THINGS?!
IF THE SHADOW IS A SECOND OR ABOVE, IT CAN TAKE THE FORM OF ANYTHING IT EATS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SHADOW FORM LOOKS LIKE.
?
OW...
GASP!
WHAT WAS I...?

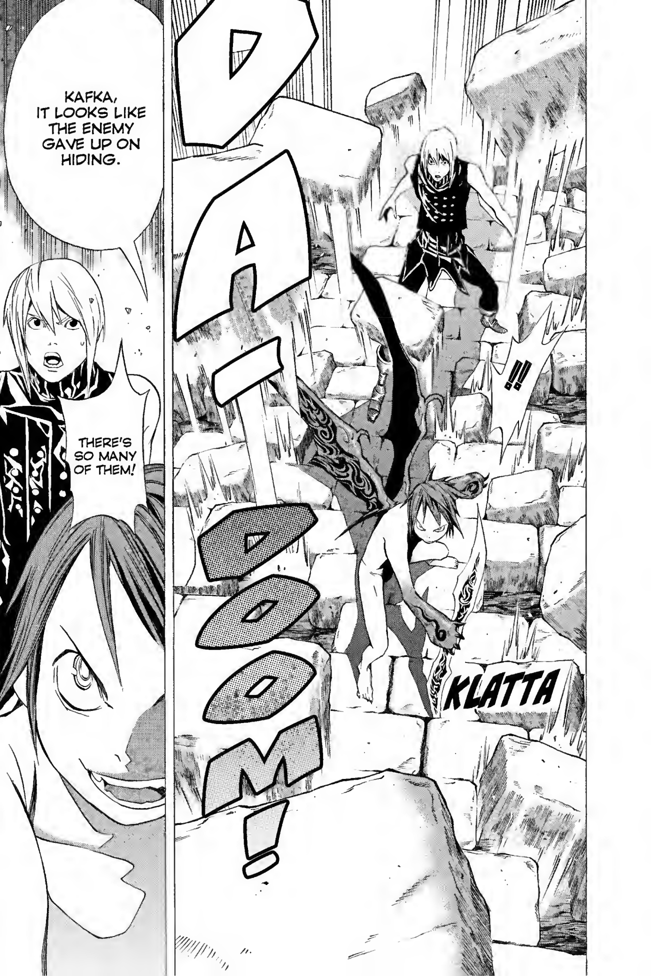

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S BACK TO NORMAL. I'M GLAD I DIDN'T KILL ANY OF THEM.
ARE THE WOMEN ALL RIGHT, TOO?
CROWD
YOWZA!
WHAT'S THIS? BOOBIES? YOU WANT ME TO FONDLE THEM AS MY REWARD FOR SAVING YOU?
SQUEEZE
ZMMM
ZMMM
WHAT? NOT SO ROUGH, 'KAY?
UM... YOU'RE SORTA STRANGLING ME! *HEH HEH*...
ZMMM
ZMMM
RAL ?!


ZMMMMMM
ARGH! I CAN'T HIT WOMEN!
LEAP
!!
THAT ROCK WASN'T THE ONLY ONE SENDING OUT A SHADOW!!
KAFKA, PICK UP THE WOMEN AND CUT OFF THE SHADOW THAT'S CONTROLLING THEM!
FWOOSH


SLASH
...
SWOOO
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EEK!
WHERE ARE OUR CLOTHES ?!
PHEW! THE WOMEN ARE FINALLY BACK TO NORMAL...
BUT RAL, THE SHADOW THAT WAS CONTROLLING THEM IS STILL ON THE LOOSE.

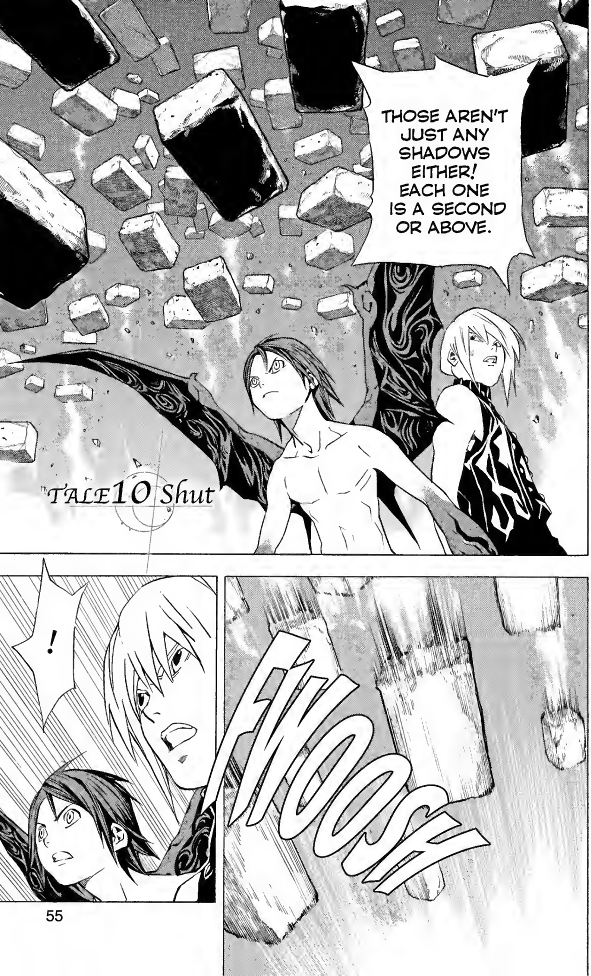

!
WHERE'S MISS MIO?!
MISS MIO, WHERE ARE YOU?!
FLAP
FLAP
SWOOP
MISS MIO!!
LADY MIO!!
PLEASE ANSWER US, LADY MIO!!
LEAP
TMP
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE MISS MIO?
IF THEY'VE EATEN HER ALREADY...
TP
NUI! OVER HERE!
SNIFF FOR SHADOWS OVER HERE WHERE THE GIRLS WERE SWARMING ME!
ARF

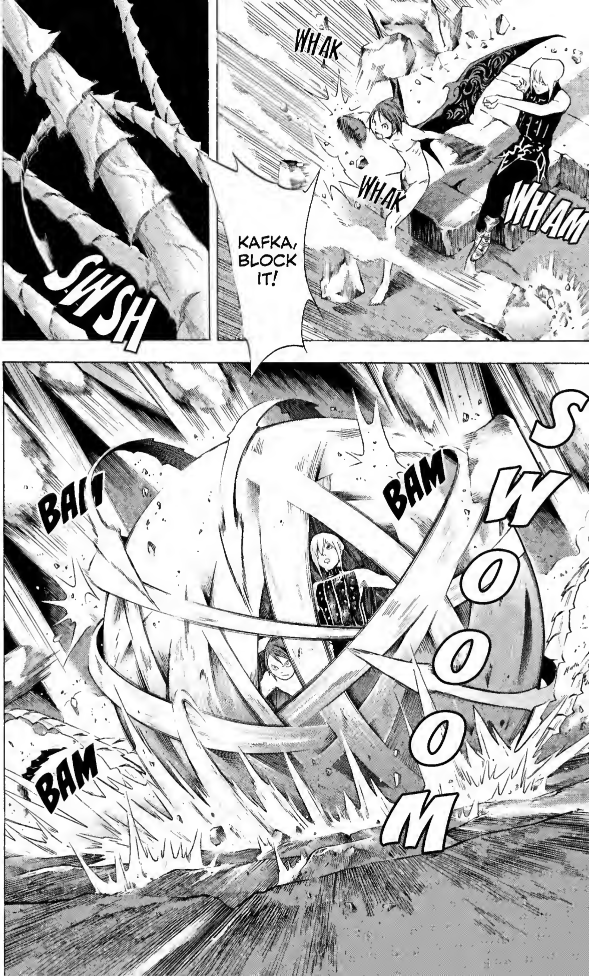

ARF
ARF
AROO!
WHAT? THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE?!
SPIN
ARF
ARF ARF
SPIN
ARF
ARF
IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S THE PAVING STONES!
ZAH
SHOW YOURSELVES!
KLANG
RMBL
RMBL

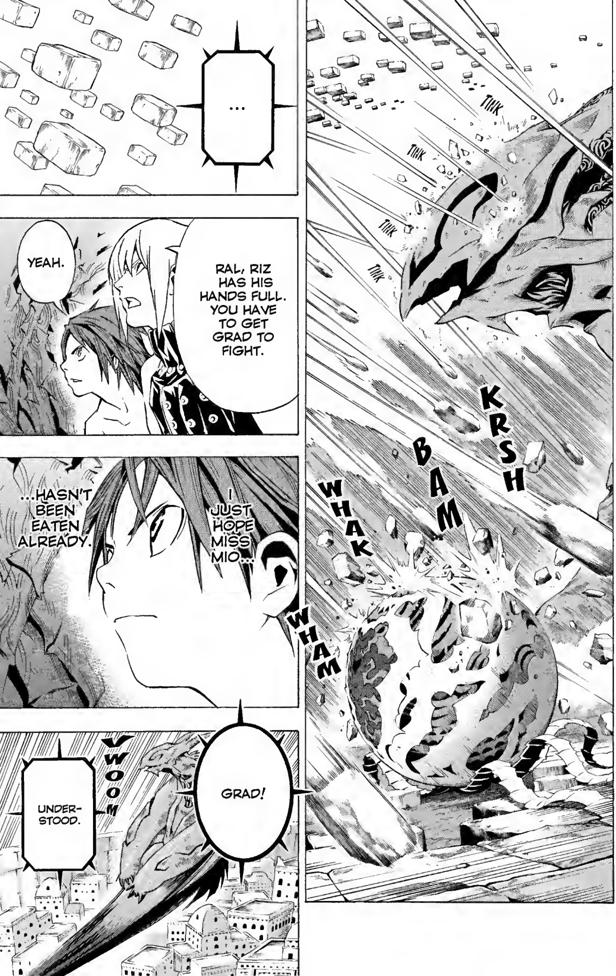

KAFKA, IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENEMY GAVE UP ON HIDING.
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!
DA-DOOM!
!!
KLATTA

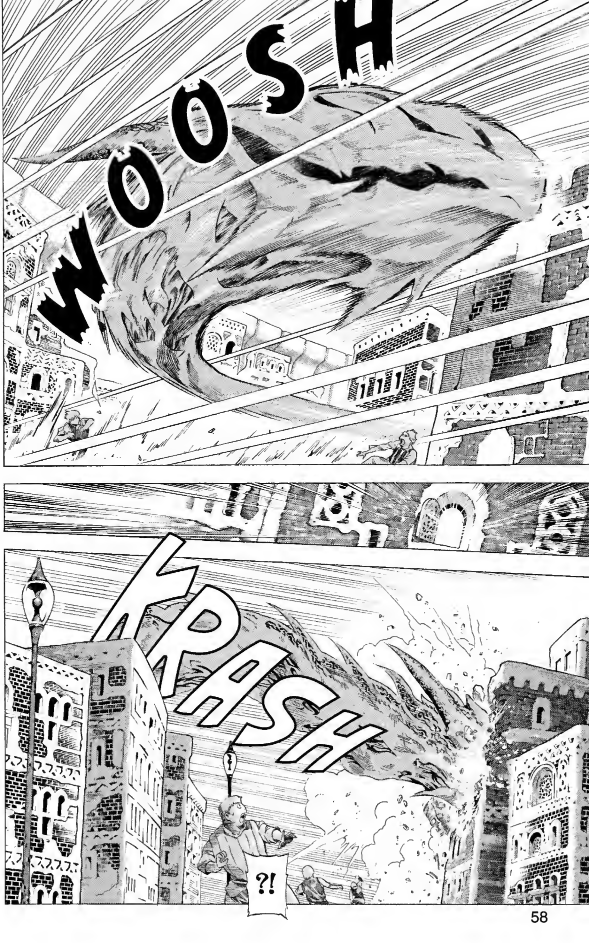
Ral Ω Grad

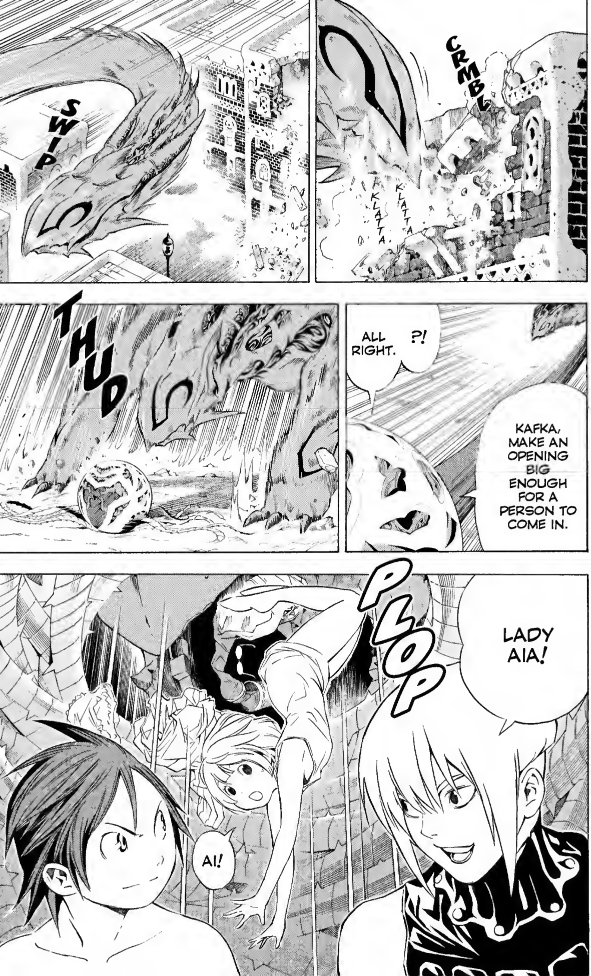
TALE10 Shut

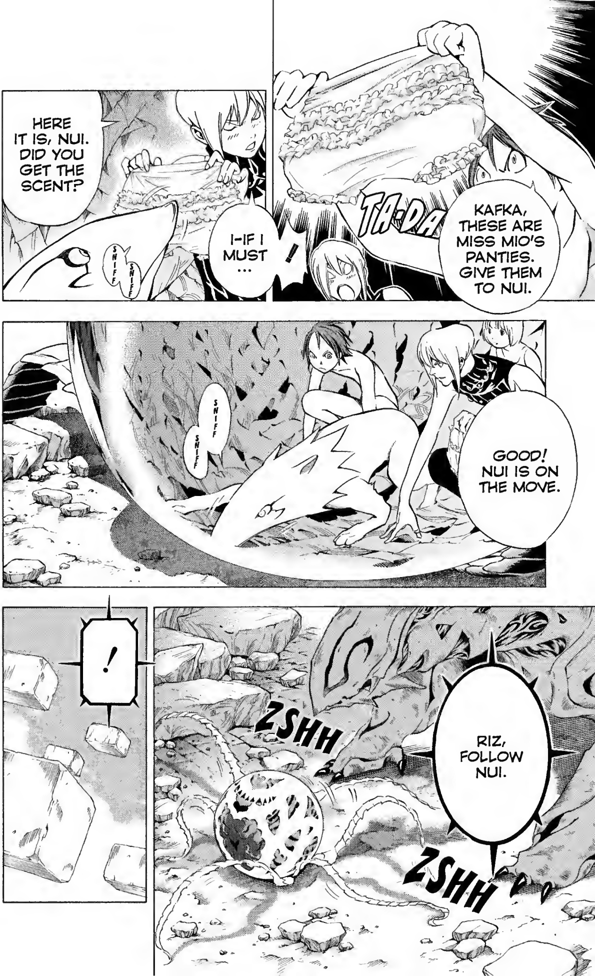

THOSE AREN'T JUST ANY SHADOWS EITHER! EACH ONE IS A SECOND OR ABOVE.
FWOOSH
!

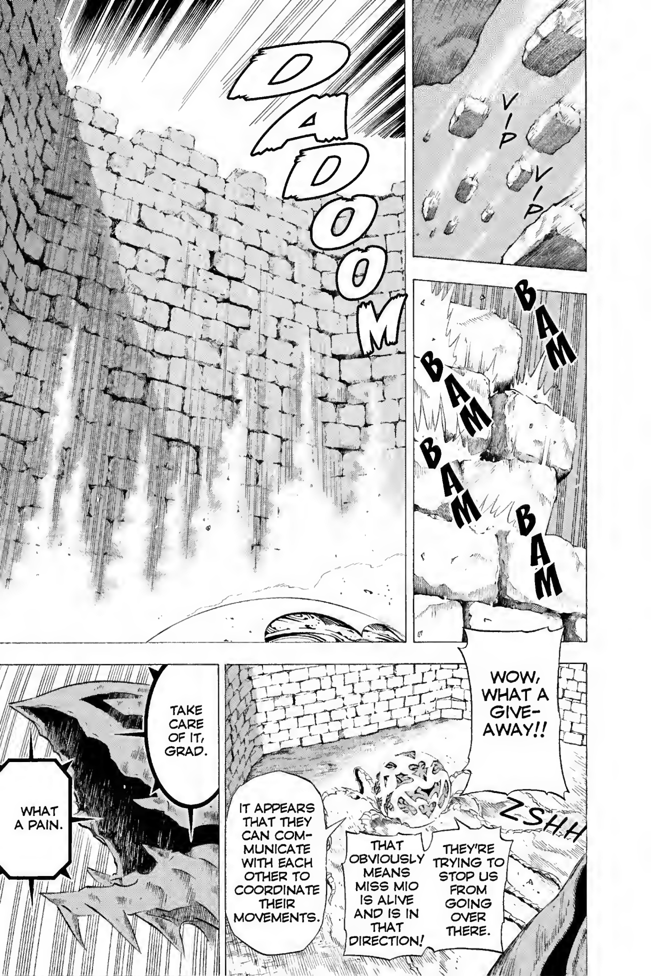

WHAK
WHAK
WHAM
SWSH
KAFKA, BLOCK IT!
SWOOOOM
BAM
BAM
BAM

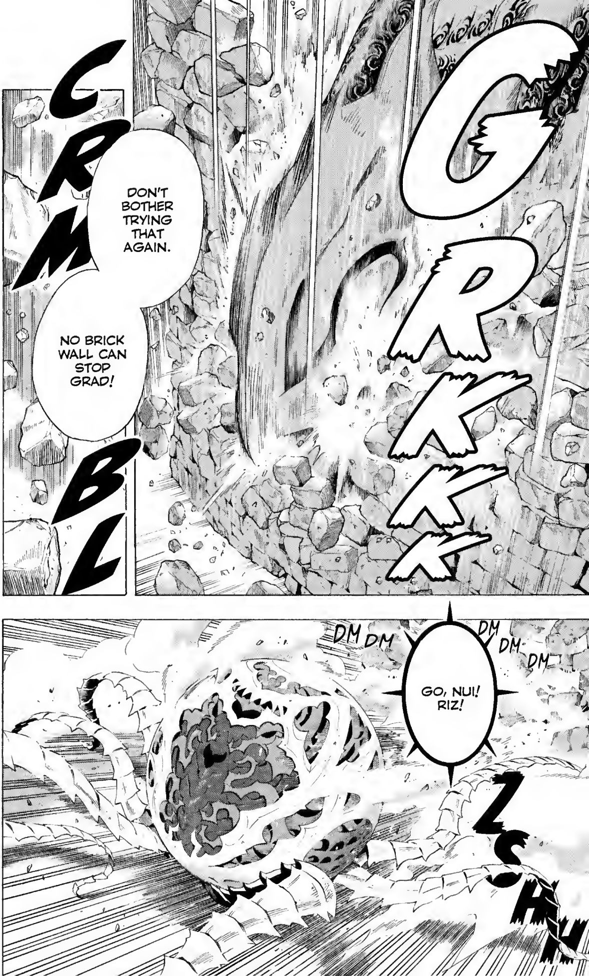

...
RAL, RIZ HAS HIS HANDS FULL. YOU HAVE TO GET GRAD TO FIGHT.
YEAH.
I JUST HOPE MISS MIO...
...HASN'T BEEN EATEN ALREADY.
GRAD!
VWOOM
UNDER-STOOD.
TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK
KRSH
BAM
WHAK
WHAM

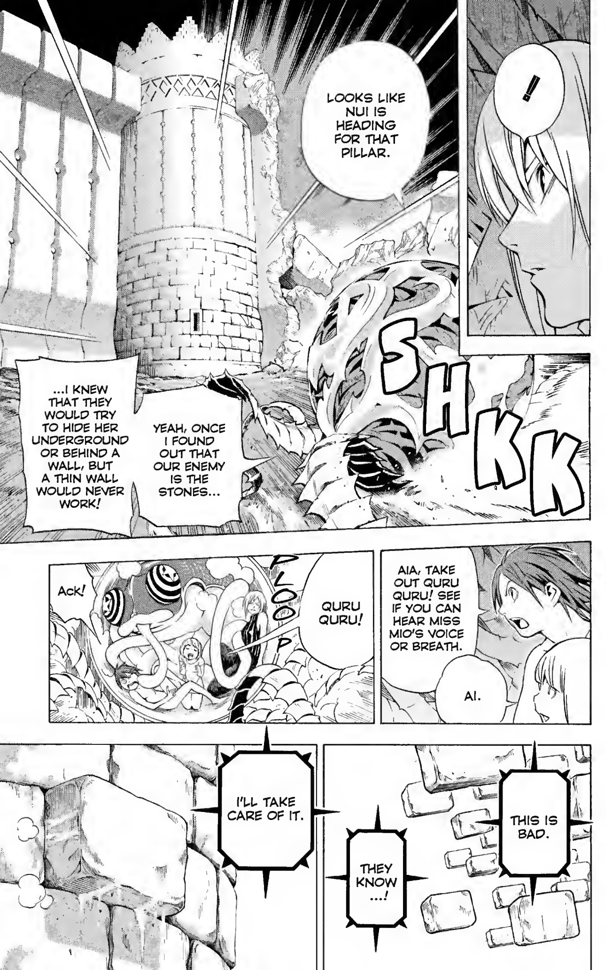

WOOSH
KRASH
?!

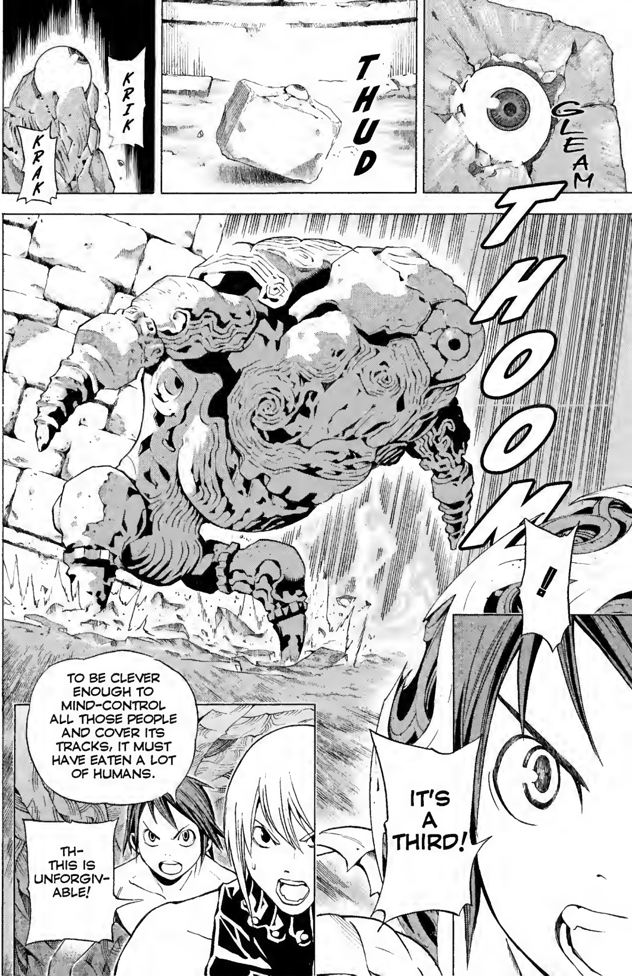

CRMBL
KLATTA
KLATTA
SWIP
?!
ALL RIGHT.
KAFKA, MAKE AN OPENING BIG ENOUGH FOR A PERSON TO COME IN.
THUD
LADY AIA!
PLOP
AI!

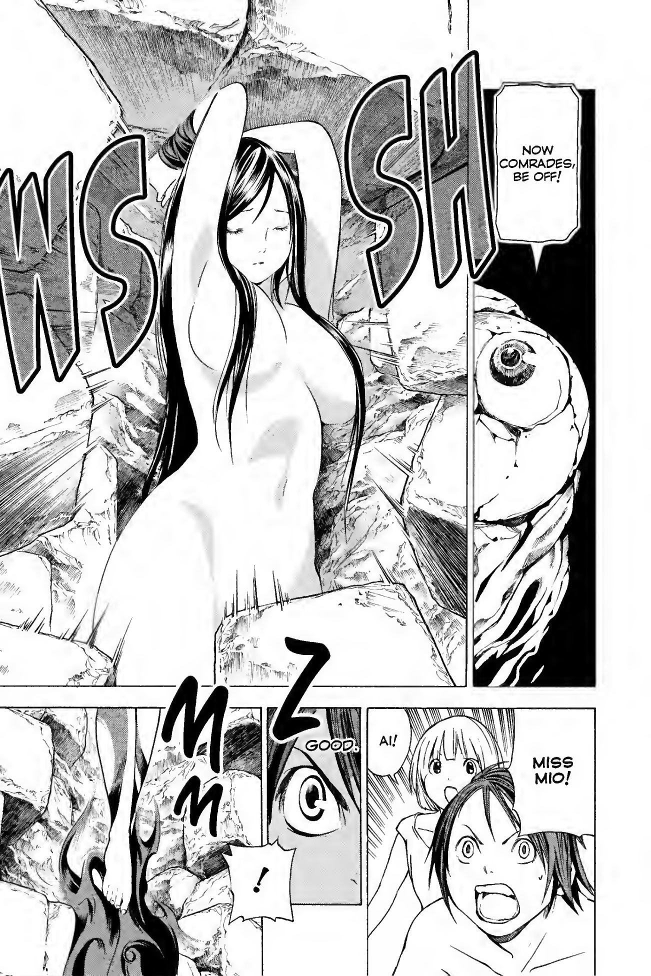

TA-DA
KAFKA, THESE ARE MISS MIO'S PANTIES. GIVE THEM TO NUI.
!
I-IF I MUST ...
HERE IT IS, NUI. DID YOU GET THE SCENT?
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
GOOD! NUI IS ON THE MOVE.
RIZ, FOLLOW NUI.
ZSHH
ZSHH
!

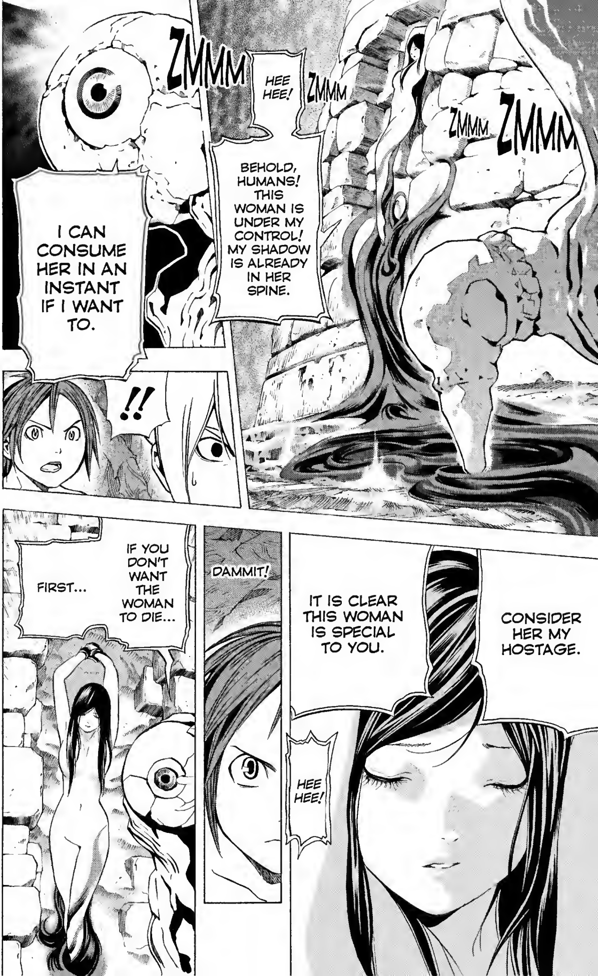

VIP
VIP
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
DADOOOM
WOW, WHAT A GIVE-AWAY!!
ZSHH
THEY'RE TRYING TO STOP US FROM GOING OVER THERE.
THAT OBVIOUSLY MEANS MISS MIO IS ALIVE AND IS IN THAT DIRECTION!
IT APPEARS THAT THEY CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER TO COORDINATE THEIR MOVEMENTS.
TAKE CARE OF IT, GRAD.
WHAT A PAIN.

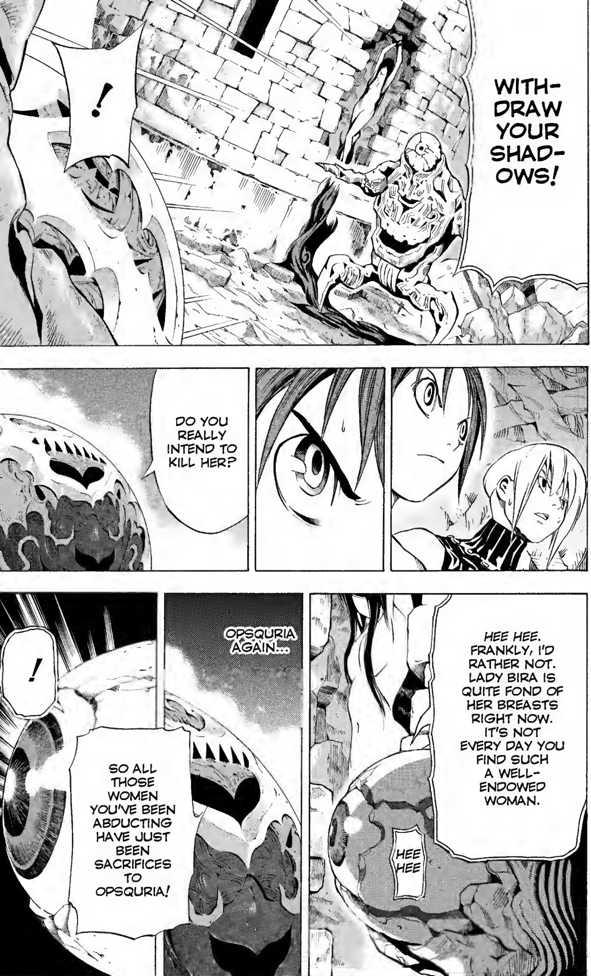

GRKKK
DON'T BOTHER TRYING THAT AGAIN.
NO BRICK WALL CAN STOP GRAD!
CRMBL
DM DM DM DM DM
GO, NUI! RIZ!
ZSHH

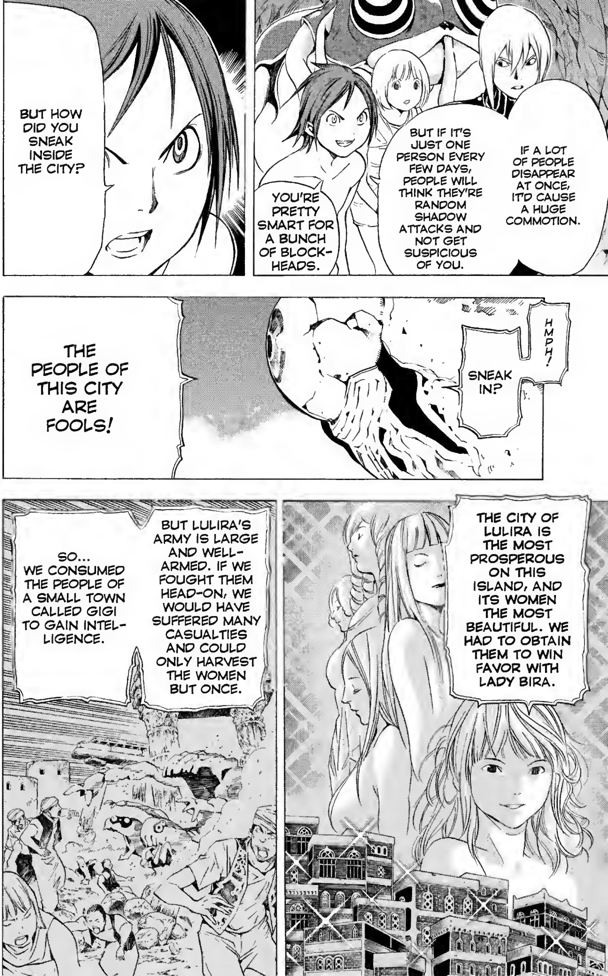

!
LOOKS LIKE NUI IS HEADING FOR THAT PILLAR.
SHKK
YEAH, ONCE I FOUND OUT THAT OUR ENEMY IS THE STONES...
...I KNEW THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO HIDE HER UNDERGROUND OR BEHIND A WALL, BUT A THIN WALL WOULD NEVER WORK!
AIA, TAKE OUT QURU QURU! SEE IF YOU CAN HEAR MISS MIO'S VOICE OR BREATH.
AI.
QURU QURU!
PLOOOP
Ack!
THIS IS BAD.
THEY KNOW ...!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

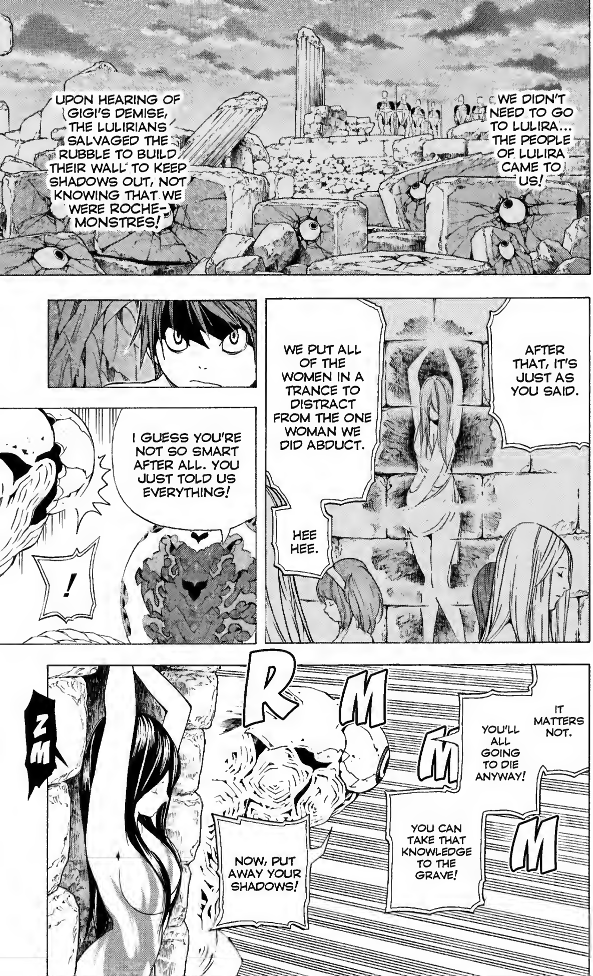

GLEAM
THUD
KRIK
KRAK
THOOM
!
IT'S A THIRD!
TO BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO MIND-CONTROL ALL THOSE PEOPLE AND COVER ITS TRACKS, IT MUST HAVE EATEN A LOT OF HUMANS.
TH- THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!

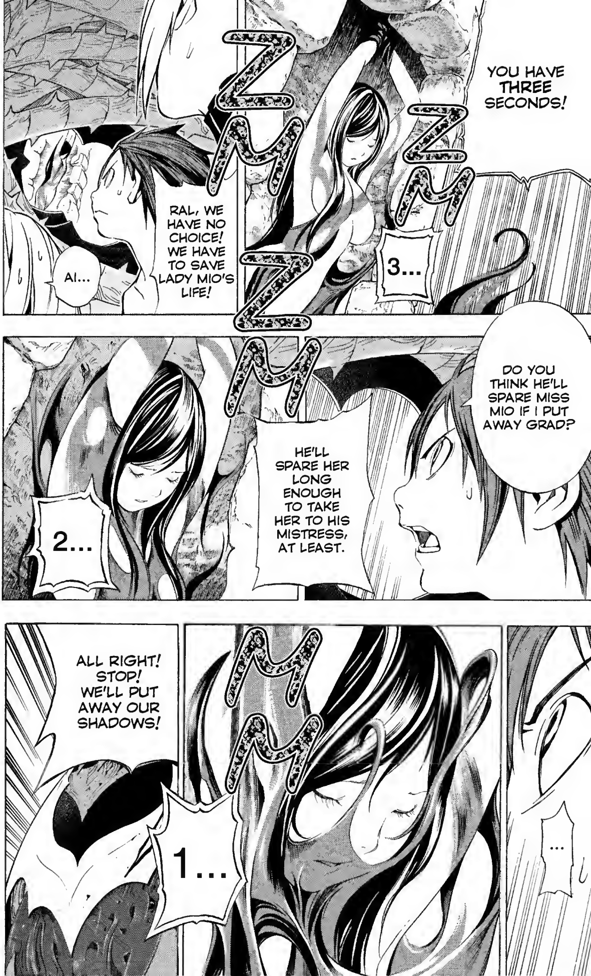

NOW COMRADES, BE OFF!
WSSH
MISS MIO!
AI!
GOOD.
!
MMZ

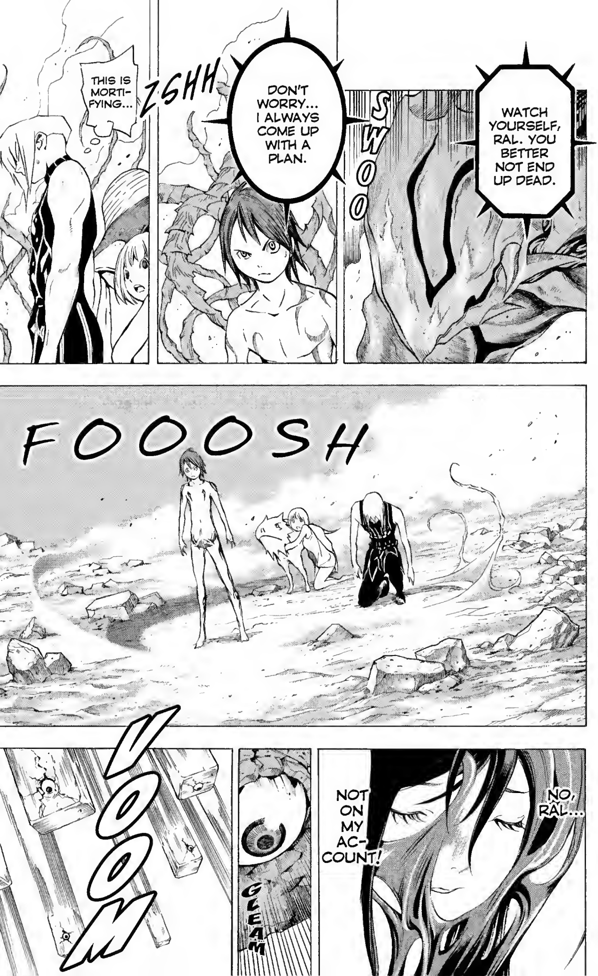

ZMMM
ZMMM
ZMMM
HEE HEE!
BEHOLD, HUMANS! THIS WOMAN IS UNDER MY CONTROL! MY SHADOW IS ALREADY IN HER SPINE.
ZMMM
I CAN CONSUME HER IN AN INSTANT IF I WANT TO.
!!
IT IS CLEAR THIS WOMAN IS SPECIAL TO YOU.
CONSIDER HER MY HOSTAGE.
HEE HEE!
DAMMIT!
IF YOU DON'T WANT THE WOMAN TO DIE...
FIRST...

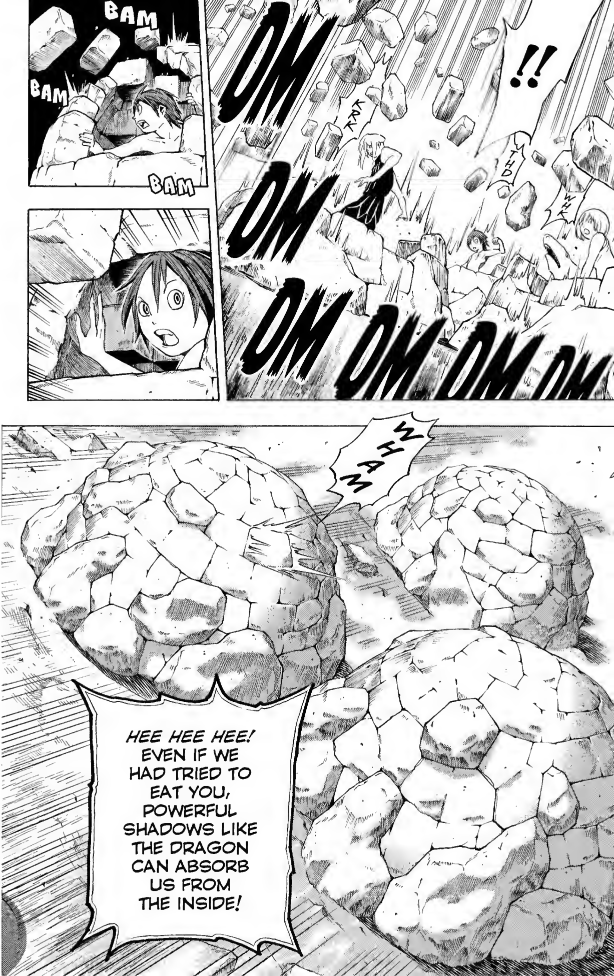

WITHDRAW YOUR SHADOWS!
!
DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO KILL HER?
HEE HEE. FRANKLY, I'D RATHER NOT. LADY BIRA IS QUITE FOND OF HER BREASTS RIGHT NOW. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU FIND SUCH A WELL-ENDOWED WOMAN.
HEE HEE
OPSQURIA AGAIN...
!
SO ALL THOSE WOMEN YOU'VE BEEN ABDUCTING HAVE JUST BEEN SACRIFICES TO OPSQURIA!

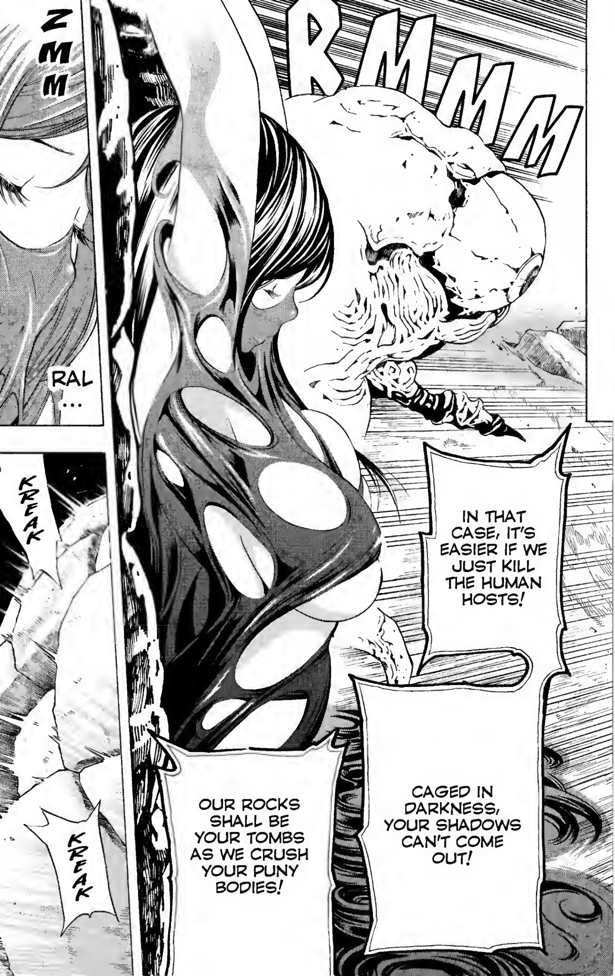

IF A LOT OF PEOPLE DISAPPEAR AT ONCE, IT'D CAUSE A HUGE COMMOTION.
BUT IF IT'S JUST ONE PERSON EVERY FEW DAYS, PEOPLE WILL THINK THEY'RE RANDOM SHADOW ATTACKS AND NOT GET SUSPICIOUS OF YOU.
YOU'RE PRETTY SMART FOR A BUNCH OF BLOCKHEADS.
BUT HOW DID YOU SNEAK INSIDE THE CITY?
HMPH!
SNEAK IN?
THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY ARE FOOLS!
THE CITY OF LULIRA IS THE MOST PROSPEROUS ON THIS ISLAND, AND ITS WOMEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL. WE HAD TO OBTAIN THEM TO WIN FAVOR WITH LADY BIRA.
BUT LULIRA'S ARMY IS LARGE AND WELL-ARMED. IF WE FOUGHT THEM HEAD-ON, WE WOULD HAVE SUFFERED MANY CASUALTIES AND COULD ONLY HARVEST THE WOMEN BUT ONCE.
SO... WE CONSUMED THE PEOPLE OF A SMALL TOWN CALLED GIGI TO GAIN INTELLIGENCE.


WE DIDN'T NEED TO GO TO LULIRA... THE PEOPLE OF LULIRA CAME TO US!
UPON HEARING OF GIGI'S DEMISE, THE LULIRIANS SALVAGED THE RUBBLE TO BUILD THEIR WALL TO KEEP SHADOWS OUT, NOT KNOWING THAT WE WERE ROCHE-MONSTRES!
AFTER THAT, IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID.
WE PUT ALL OF THE WOMEN IN A TRANCE TO DISTRACT FROM THE ONE WOMAN WE DID ABDUCT.
HEE HEE.
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT SO SMART AFTER ALL. YOU JUST TOLD US EVERYTHING!
!
R
M
M
M
IT MATTERS NOT.
YOU'LL ALL GOING TO DIE ANYWAY!
YOU CAN TAKE THAT KNOWLEDGE TO THE GRAVE!
NOW, PUT AWAY YOUR SHADOWS!
ZM

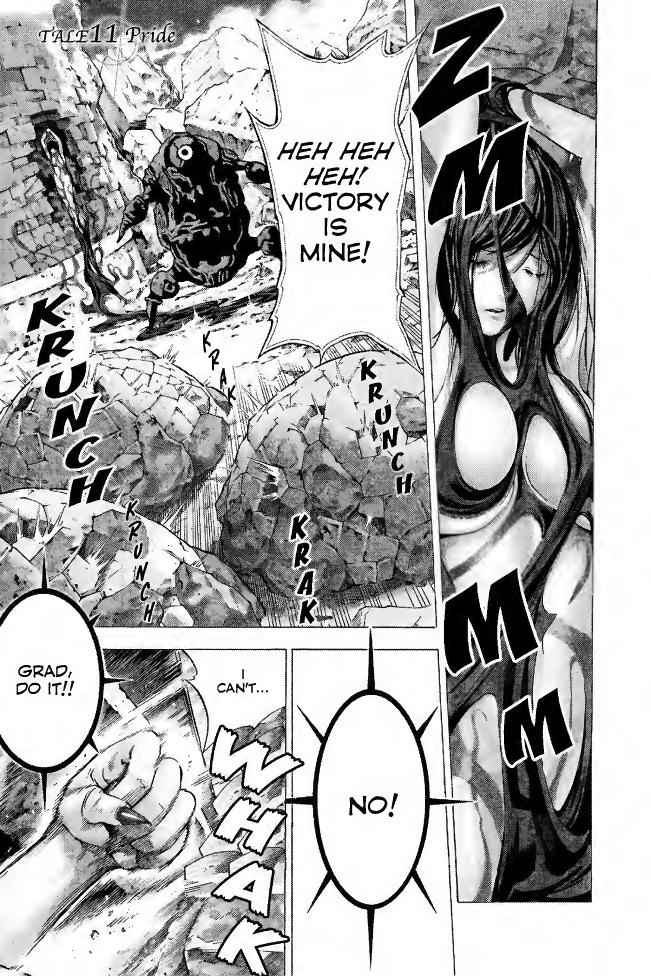

YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS!
ZZM
ZZM
3...
RAL, WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE HAVE TO SAVE LADY MIO'S LIFE!
AI...
DO YOU THINK HE'LL SPARE MISS MIO IF I PUT AWAY GRAD?
HE'LL SPARE HER LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE HER TO HIS MISTRESS, AT LEAST.
2...
...
MMM
1...
ALL RIGHT! STOP! WE'LL PUT AWAY OUR SHADOWS!


WATCH YOURSELF, RAL. YOU BETTER NOT END UP DEAD.
SWOOO
DON'T WORRY... I ALWAYS COME UP WITH A PLAN.
ZSHH
THIS IS MORTIFYING...
FOOOSH
NO, RAL...
NOT ON MY ACCOUNT!
GLEAM
VOOOM


!!
KRK
THD
WHK
DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM
BAM
BAM
BAM
WHAM
HEE HEE HEE! EVEN IF WE HAD TRIED TO EAT YOU, POWERFUL SHADOWS LIKE THE DRAGON CAN ABSORB US FROM THE INSIDE!

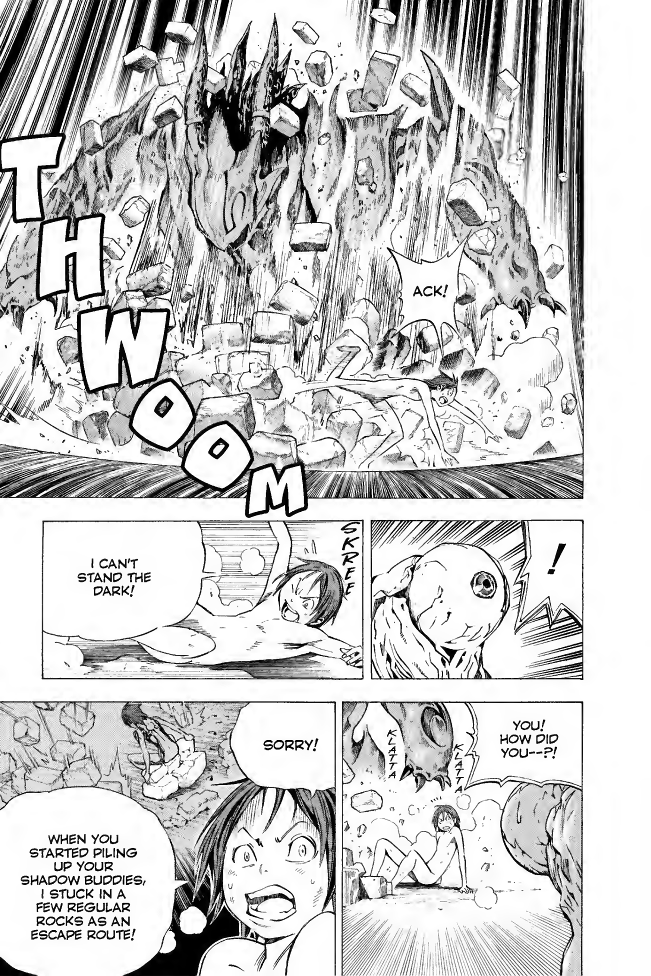

RMMM
ZMM
RAL ...
IN THAT CASE, IT'S EASIER IF WE JUST KILL THE HUMAN HOSTS!
CAGED IN DARKNESS, YOUR SHADOWS CAN'T COME OUT!
OUR ROCKS SHALL BE YOUR TOMBS AS WE CRUSH YOUR PUNY BODIES!
KREAK
KREAK

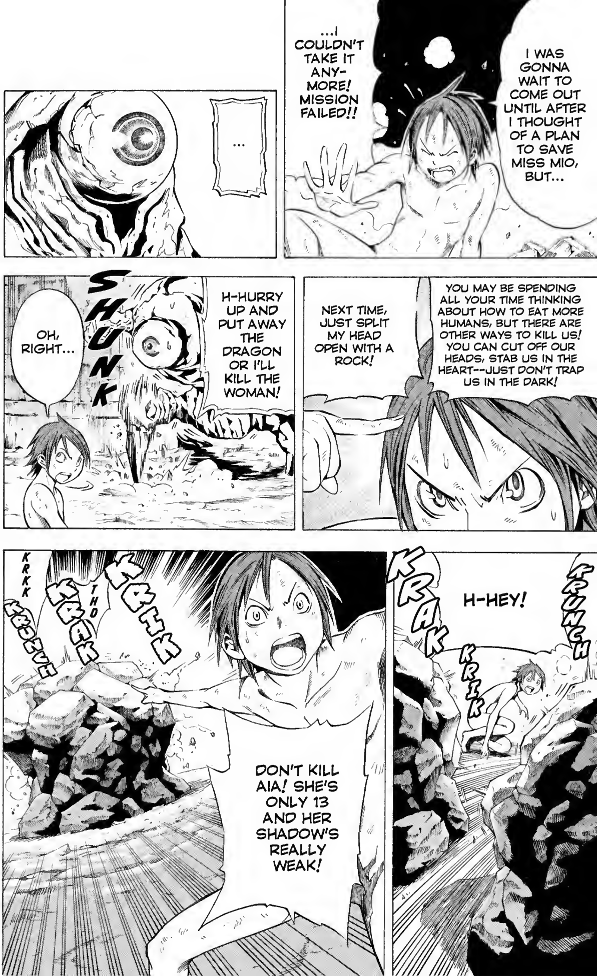
RalΩGrad

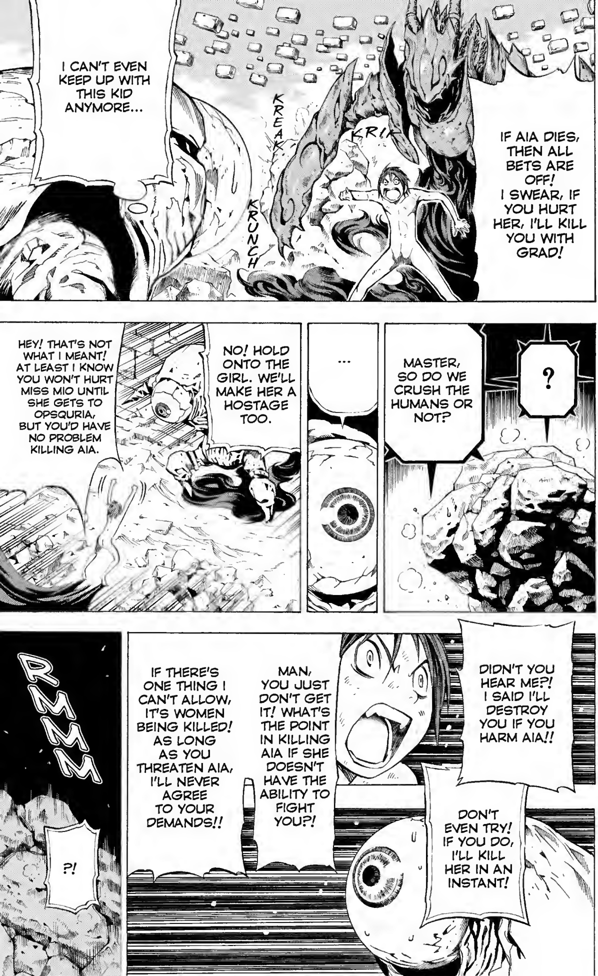

ZMMMM
HEH HEH HEH! VICTORY IS MINE!
KRUNCH
KRAK
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
KRAK
NO!
I CAN'T...
GRAD, DO IT!!
WHHAK

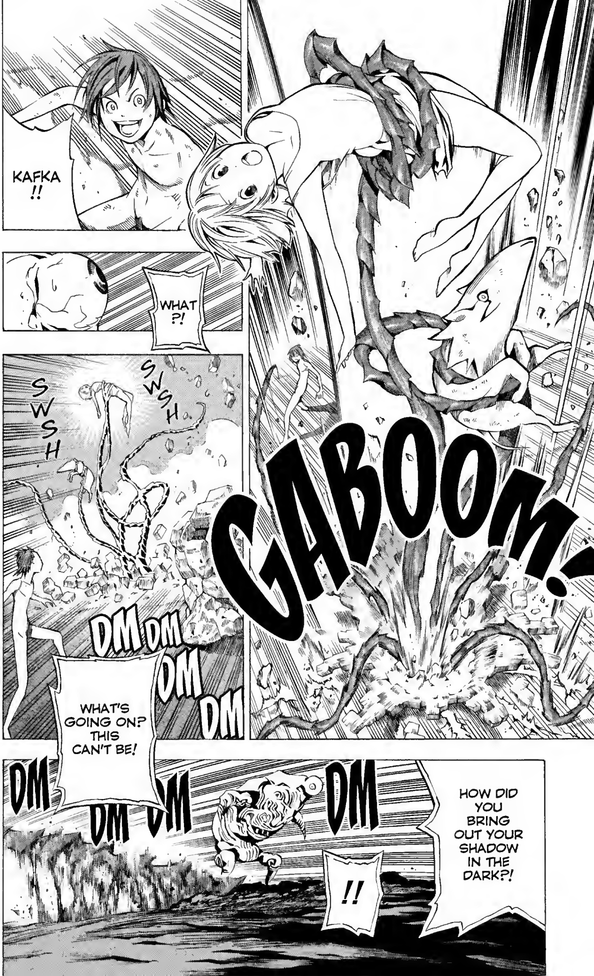
TALE11 Pride

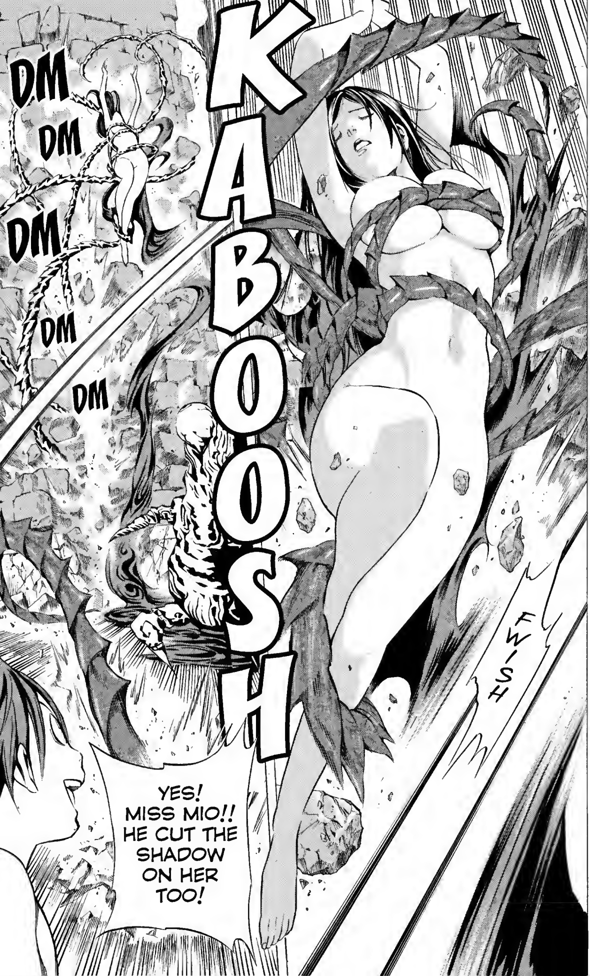
RaLoGraD

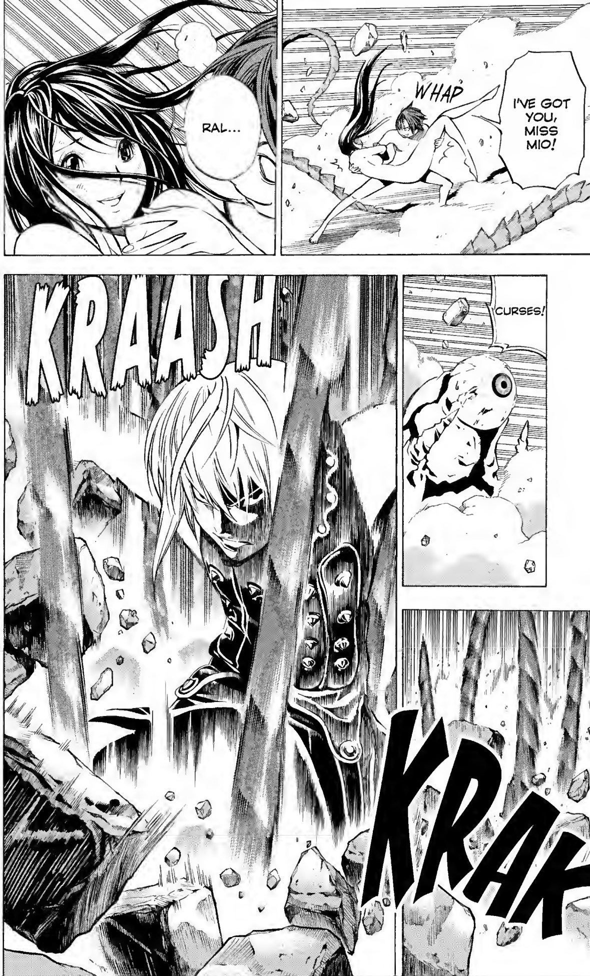

THWOOM
ACK!
!
SKREE
I CAN'T STAND THE DARK!
KLATTA KLATTA
YOU! HOW DID YOU--?!
SORRY!
WHEN YOU STARTED PILING UP YOUR SHADOW BUDDIES, I STUCK IN A FEW REGULAR ROCKS AS AN ESCAPE ROUTE!

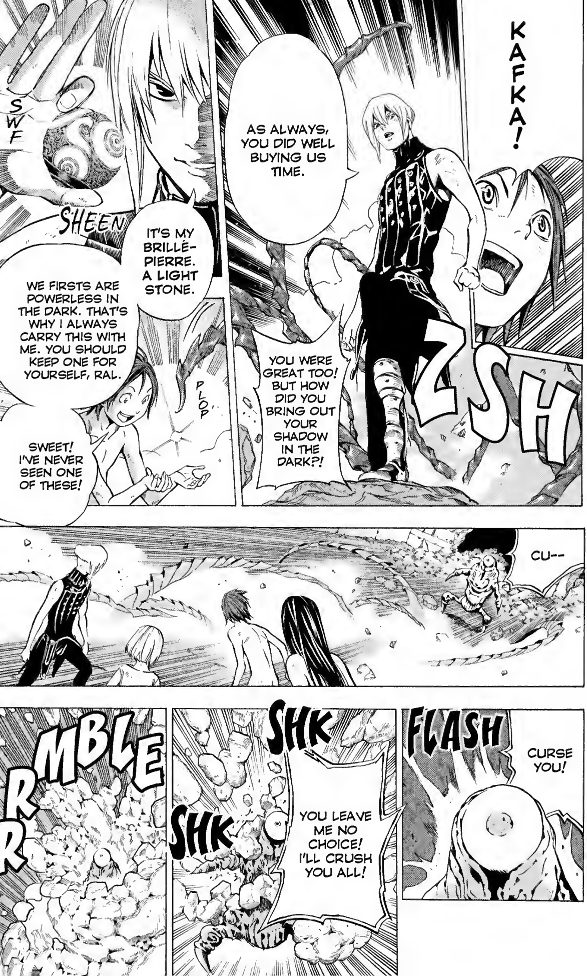

I WAS GONNA WAIT TO COME OUT UNTIL AFTER I THOUGHT OF A PLAN TO SAVE MISS MIO, BUT...
...I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE! MISSION FAILED!!
...
YOU MAY BE SPENDING ALL YOUR TIME THINKING ABOUT HOW TO EAT MORE HUMANS, BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO KILL US! YOU CAN CUT OFF OUR HEADS, STAB US IN THE HEART--JUST DON'T TRAP US IN THE DARK!
NEXT TIME, JUST SPLIT MY HEAD OPEN WITH A ROCK!
SHUNK
H-HURRY UP AND PUT AWAY THE DRAGON OR I'LL KILL THE WOMAN!
OH, RIGHT...
KRAK
H-HEY!
KRUNCH
KRIK
KRIK
THO
KRAK
KRKK
KRUNCH
DON'T KILL AIA! SHE'S ONLY 13 AND HER SHADOW'S REALLY WEAK!

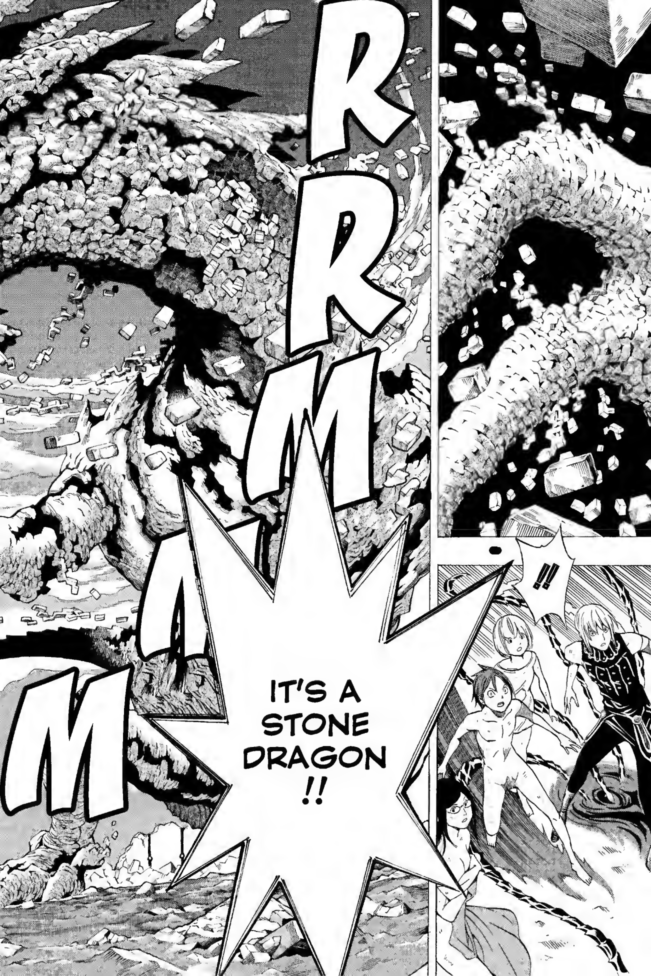

IF AIA DIES, THEN ALL BETS ARE OFF! I SWEAR, IF YOU HURT HER, I'LL KILL YOU WITH GRAD!
KRI!
KREAK
KRUNCH
I CAN'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH THIS KID ANYMORE...
?
MASTER, SO DO WE CRUSH THE HUMANS OR NOT?
...
NO! HOLD ONTO THE GIRL. WE'LL MAKE HER A HOSTAGE TOO.
HEY! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! AT LEAST I KNOW YOU WON'T HURT MISS MIO UNTIL SHE GETS TO OPSQURIA, BUT YOU'D HAVE NO PROBLEM KILLING AIA.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?! I SAID I'LL DESTROY YOU IF YOU HARM AIA!!
DON'T EVEN TRY! IF YOU DO, I'LL KILL HER IN AN INSTANT!
MAN, YOU JUST DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S THE POINT IN KILLING AIA IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO FIGHT YOU?!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T ALLOW, IT'S WOMEN BEING KILLED! AS LONG AS YOU THREATEN AIA, I'LL NEVER AGREE TO YOUR DEMANDS!!
RMMM
?!

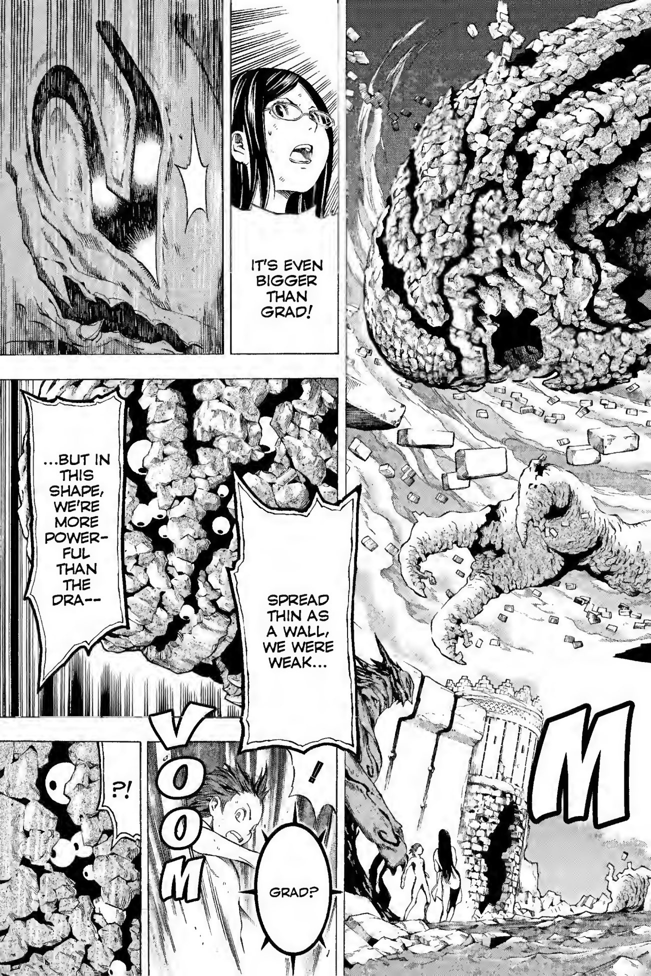

GABOOM!
KAFKA !!
WHAT ?!
SWSH
SWSH
DM DM DM DM
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS CAN'T BE!
HOW DID YOU BRING OUT YOUR SHADOW IN THE DARK?!
!!
DM DM DM DM

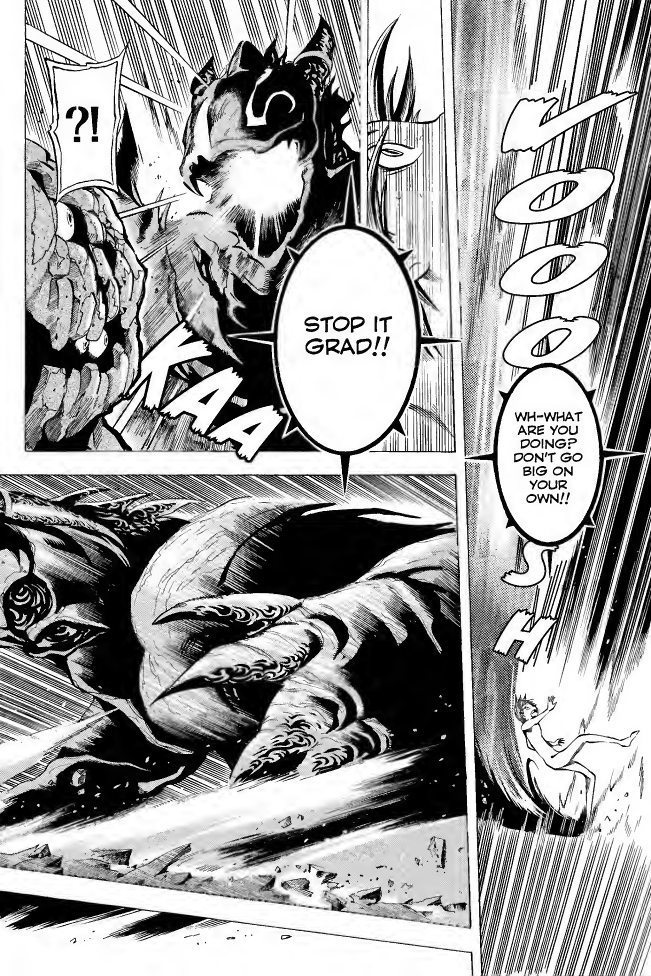

KABOOSH
DM
DM
DM
DM
DM
FWISH
YES! MISS MIO!! HE CUT THE SHADOW ON HER TOO!

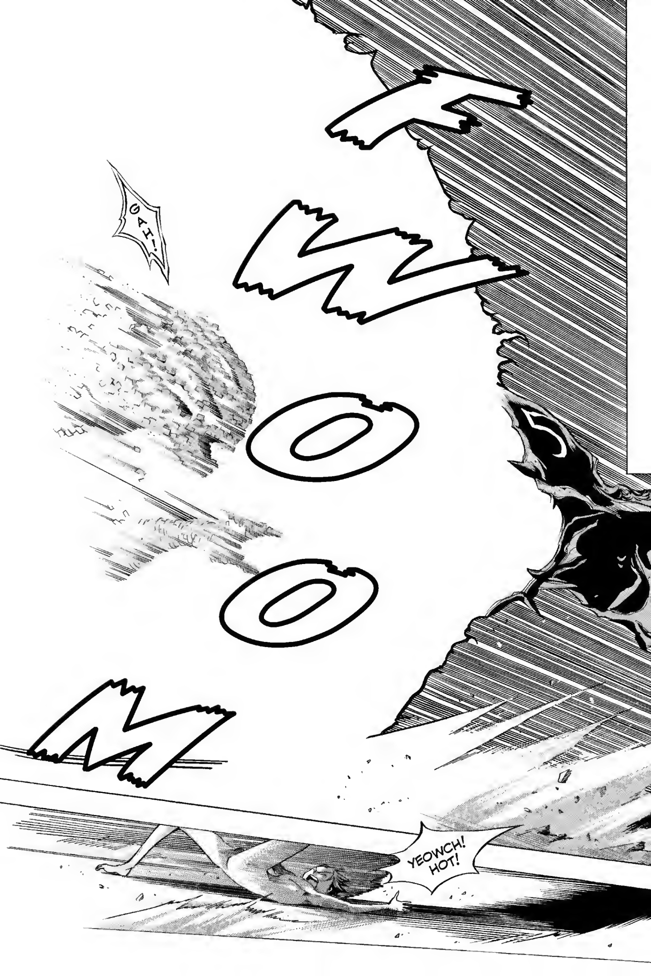

WHAP
I'VE GOT YOU, MISS MIO!
RAL...
CURSES!
KRAK
KRAASH

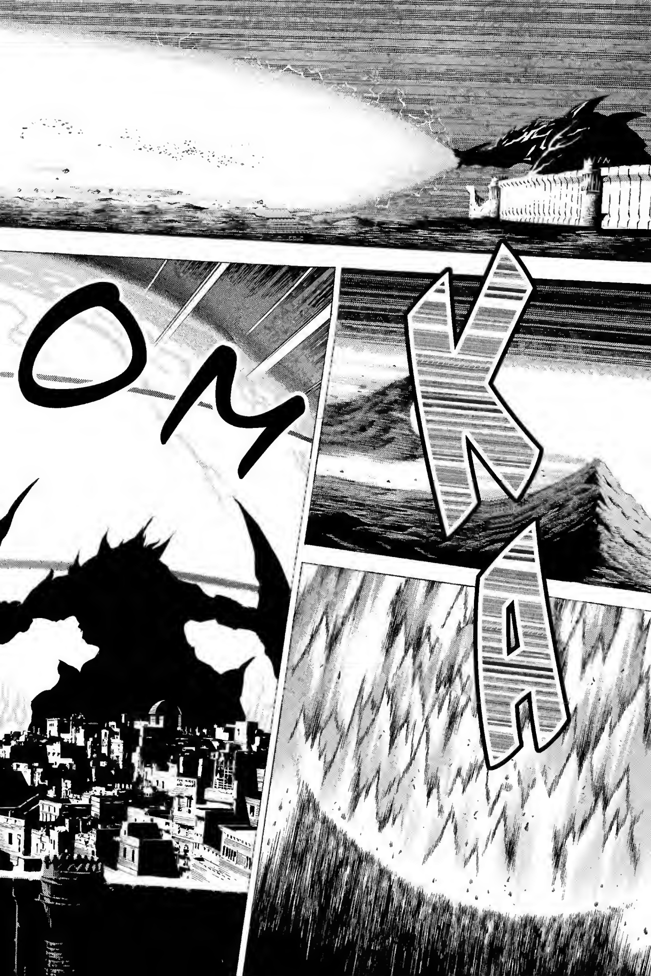

KAFKA!
ZSH
AS ALWAYS, YOU DID WELL BUYING US TIME.
YOU WERE GREAT TOO! BUT HOW DID YOU BRING OUT YOUR SHADOW IN THE DARK?!
SWF
SHEEN
IT'S MY BRILLÉ-PIERRE. A LIGHT STONE.
WE FIRSTS ARE POWERLESS IN THE DARK. THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS CARRY THIS WITH ME. YOU SHOULD KEEP ONE FOR YOURSELF, RAL.
PLOP
SWEET! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE!
CU--
FLASH
CURSE YOU!
SHK
SHK
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! I'LL CRUSH YOU ALL!
RRMBLE

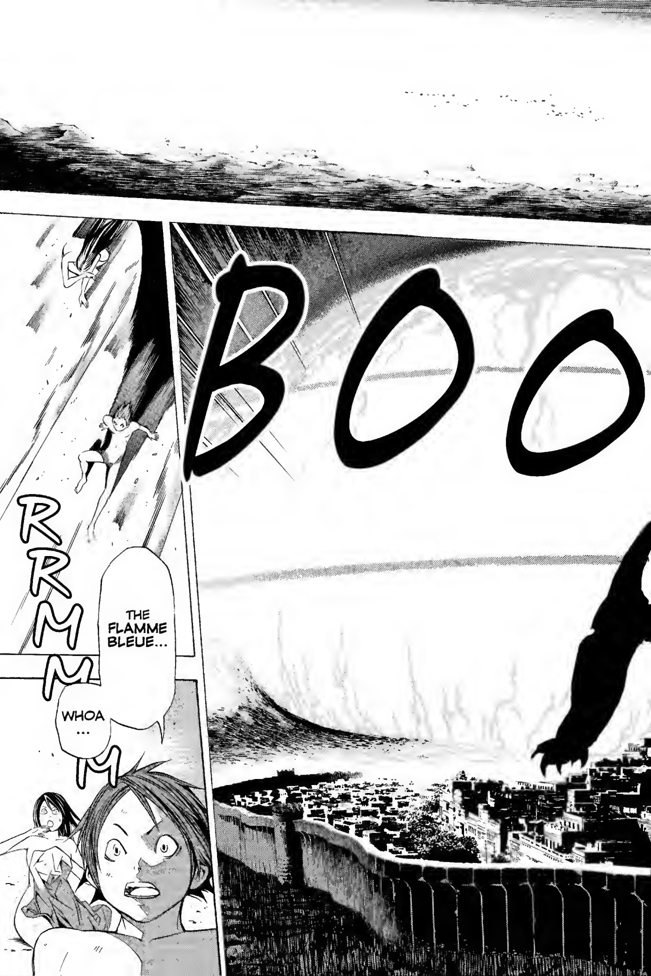

RRMMM
IT'S A STONE DRAGON !!
!!

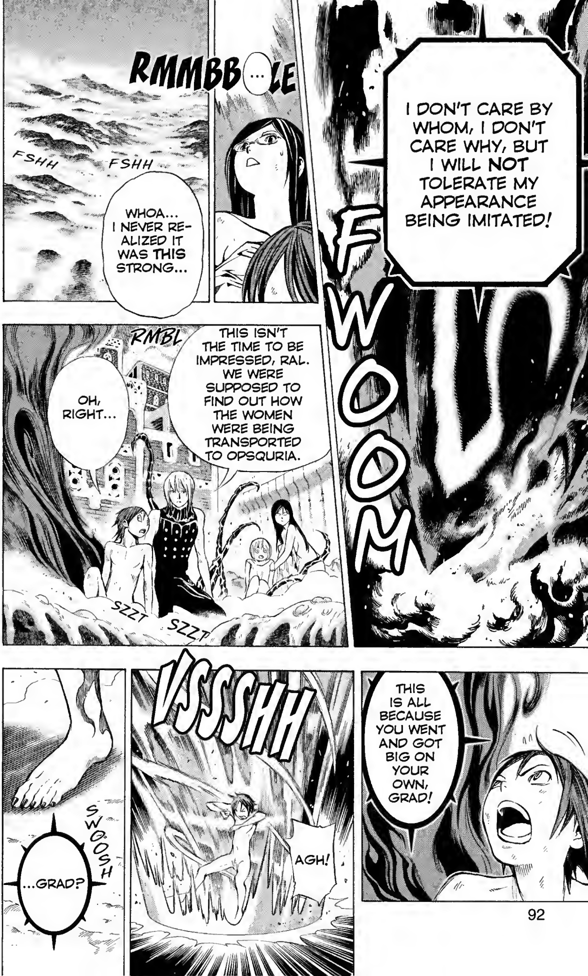

IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN GRAD!
SPREAD THIN AS A WALL, WE WERE WEAK...
...BUT IN THIS SHAPE, WE'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE DRA--
M
!
GRAD?
VOOM
?!

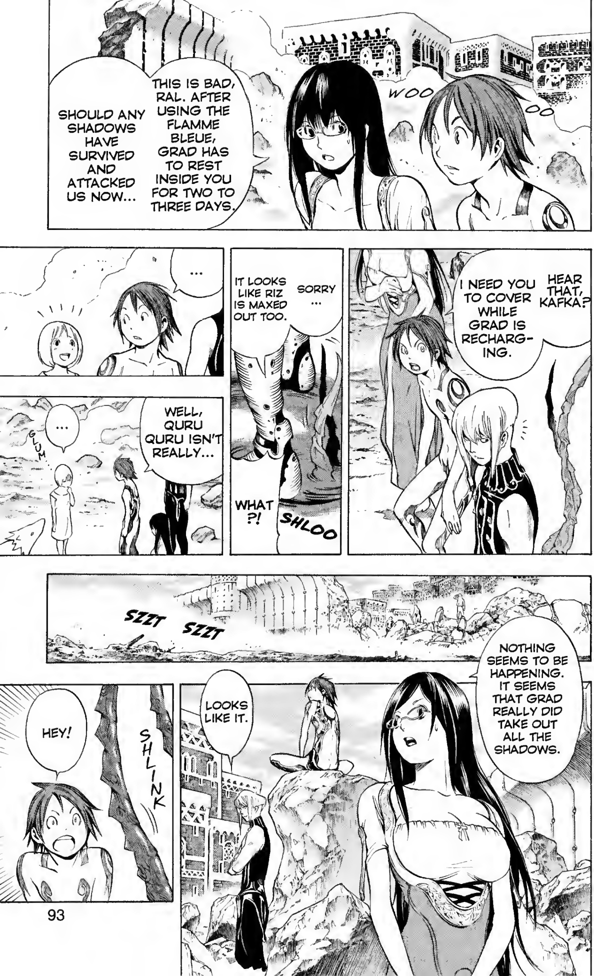

STOP IT GRAD!!
?!
KAA
VOOOOSH
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T GO BIG ON YOUR OWN!!

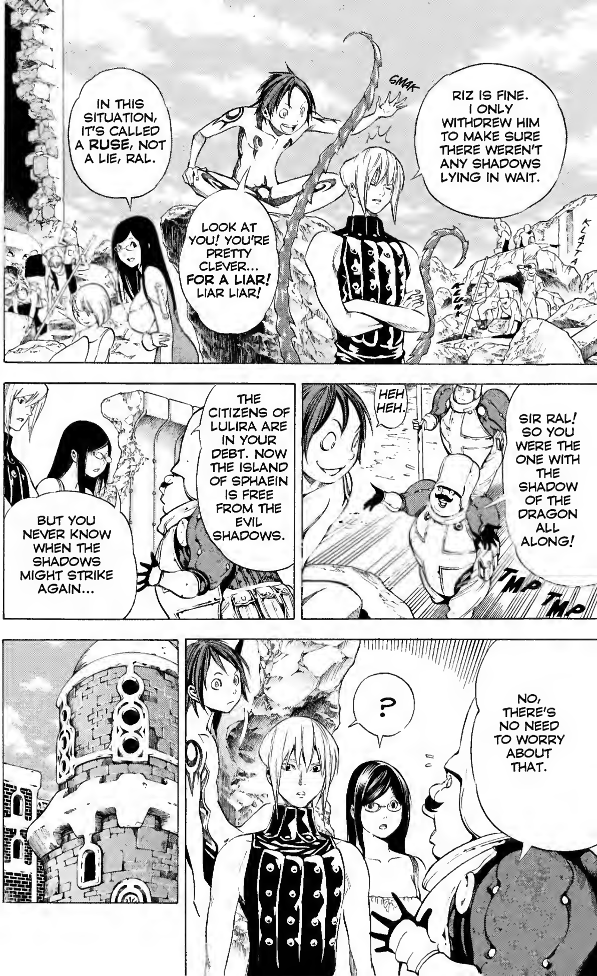

FWOOOM
GAH!
YEOWCH! HOT!

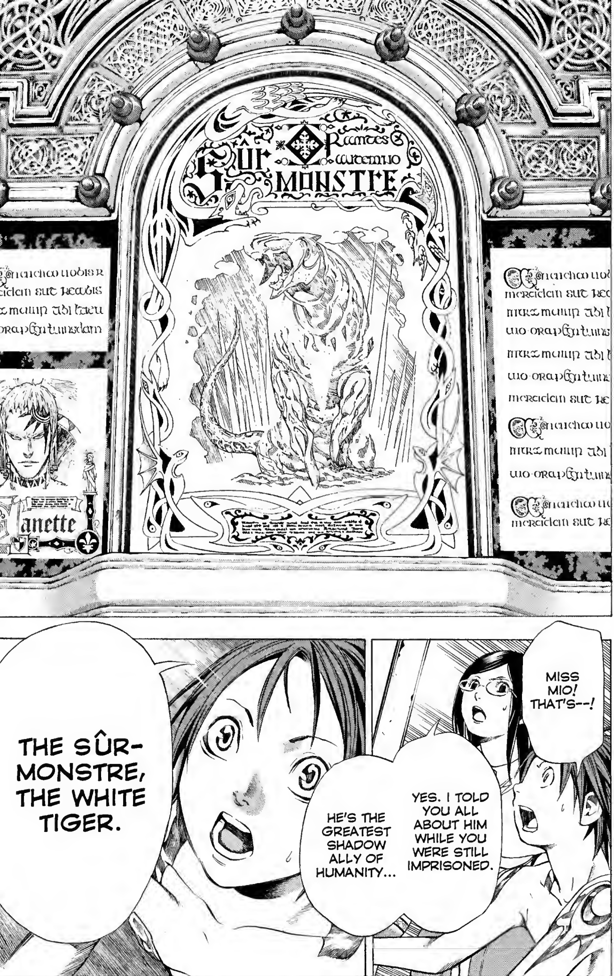

KA
OM

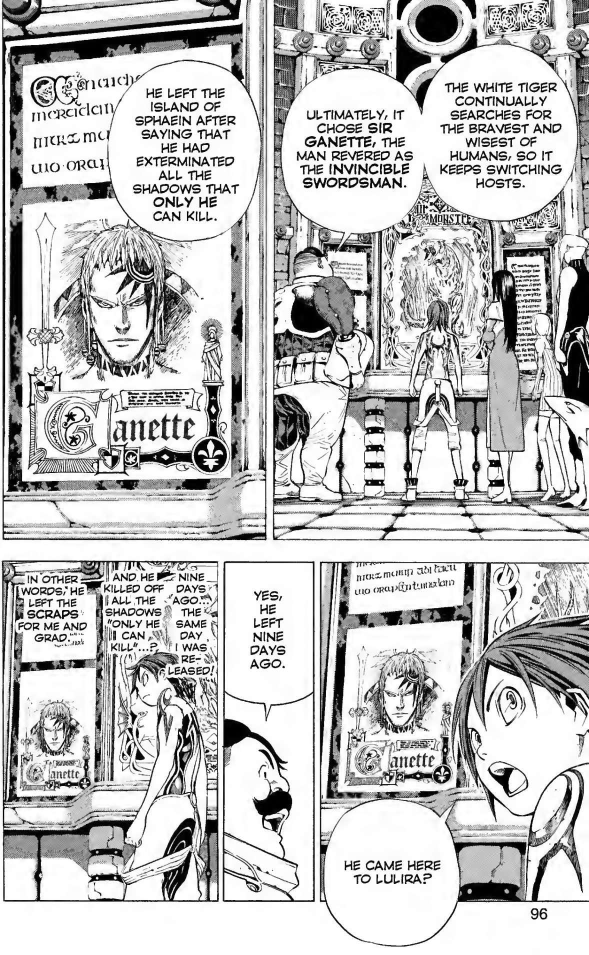

BOO
RRMMM
THE FLAMME BLEUE...
WHOA ...

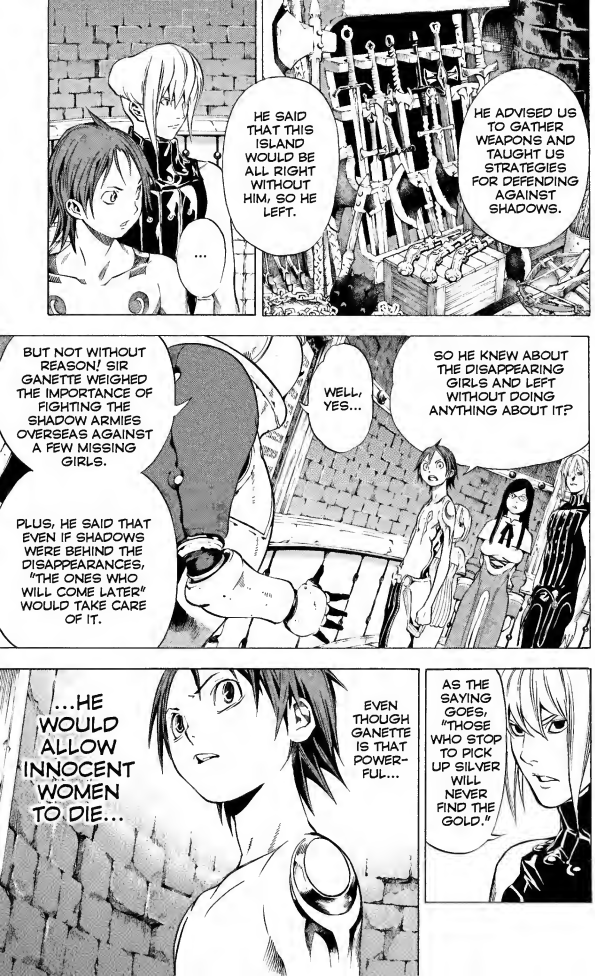

I DON'T CARE BY WHOM, I DON'T CARE WHY, BUT I WILL **NOT** TOLERATE MY APPEARANCE BEING IMITATED!
FWOOM
RMMBBLE
...
FSHH FSHH
WHOA... I NEVER REALIZED IT WAS **THIS** STRONG...
RMBL
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE IMPRESSED, RAL. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT HOW THE WOMEN WERE BEING TRANSPORTED TO OPSQURIA.
OH, RIGHT...
SZZT SZZT
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU WENT AND GOT BIG ON YOUR OWN, GRAD!
VSSSHH
AGH!
SWOOSH
...GRAD?

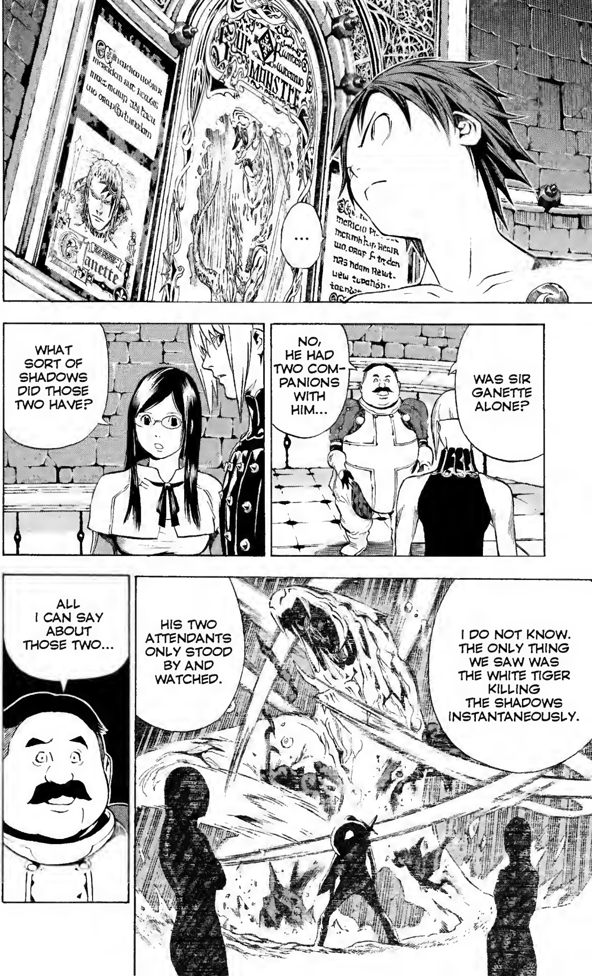

WOOOO
THIS IS BAD, RAL. AFTER USING THE FLAMME BLEUE, GRAD HAS TO REST INSIDE YOU FOR TWO TO THREE DAYS.
SHOULD ANY SHADOWS HAVE SURVIVED AND ATTACKED US NOW...
HEAR THAT, KAFKA?
I NEED YOU TO COVER WHILE GRAD IS RECHARGING.
SORRY...
IT LOOKS LIKE RIZ IS MAXED OUT TOO.
WHAT?!
SHLOO
...
WELL, QURU QURU ISN'T REALLY...
...
GLUM
SZZT SZZT
NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING. IT SEEMS THAT GRAD REALLY DID TAKE OUT ALL THE SHADOWS.
LOOKS LIKE IT.
SHLINK
HEY!

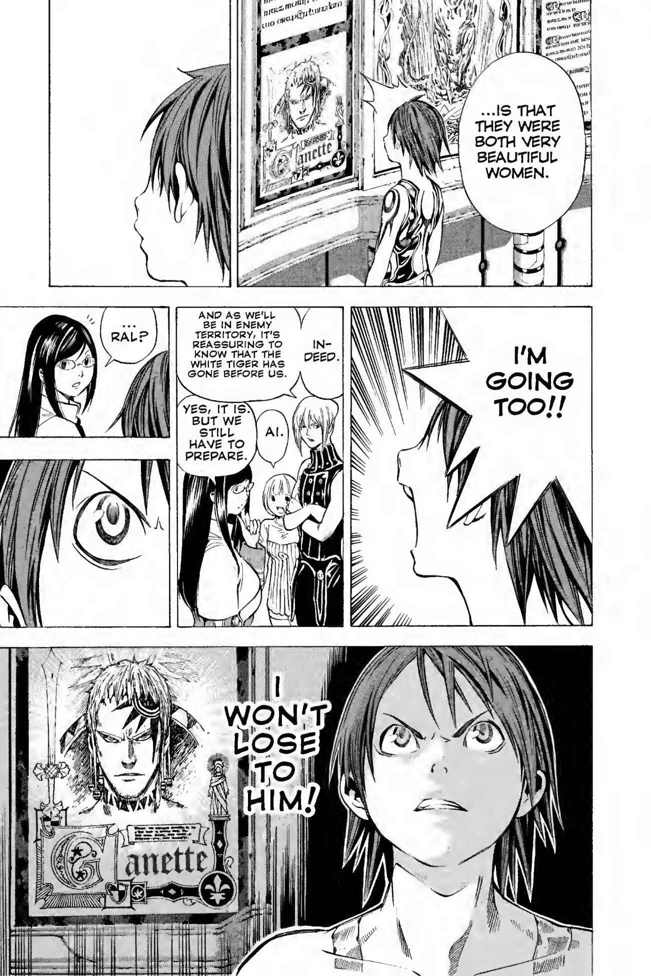

RIZ IS FINE. I ONLY WITHDREW HIM TO MAKE SURE THERE WEREN'T ANY SHADOWS LYING IN WAIT.
SMAK
KLATTA
KLUNK
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER... FOR A LIAR! LIAR LIAR!
IN THIS SITUATION, IT'S CALLED A **RUSE**, NOT A LIE, RAL.
SIR RAL! SO YOU WERE THE ONE WITH THE SHADOW OF THE DRAGON ALL ALONG!
TMP TMP
HEH HEH.
THE CITIZENS OF LULIRA ARE IN YOUR DEBT. NOW THE ISLAND OF SPHAEIN IS FREE FROM THE EVIL SHADOWS.
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE SHADOWS MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN...
NO, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
?


SÛR MONSTRE
anette
MISS MIO! THAT'S--!
THE SÛR-MONSTRE, THE WHITE TIGER.
HE'S THE GREATEST SHADOW ALLY OF HUMANITY...
YES. I TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT HIM WHILE YOU WERE STILL IMPRISONED.


THE WHITE TIGER CONTINUALLY SEARCHES FOR THE BRAVEST AND WISEST OF HUMANS, SO IT KEEPS SWITCHING HOSTS.
ULTIMATELY, IT CHOSE SIR GANETTE, THE MAN REVERED AS THE INVINCIBLE SWORDSMAN.
MONSTRE
HE LEFT THE ISLAND OF SPHAEIN AFTER SAYING THAT HE HAD EXTERMINATED ALL THE SHADOWS THAT ONLY HE CAN KILL.
Ganette
HE CAME HERE TO LULIRA?
Ganette
YES, HE LEFT NINE DAYS AGO.
AND HE KILLED OFF ALL THE SHADOWS "ONLY HE CAN KILL"...?
NINE DAYS AGO... THE SAME DAY I WAS RELEASED!
IN OTHER WORDS, HE LEFT THE SCRAPS FOR ME AND GRAD.
Ganette

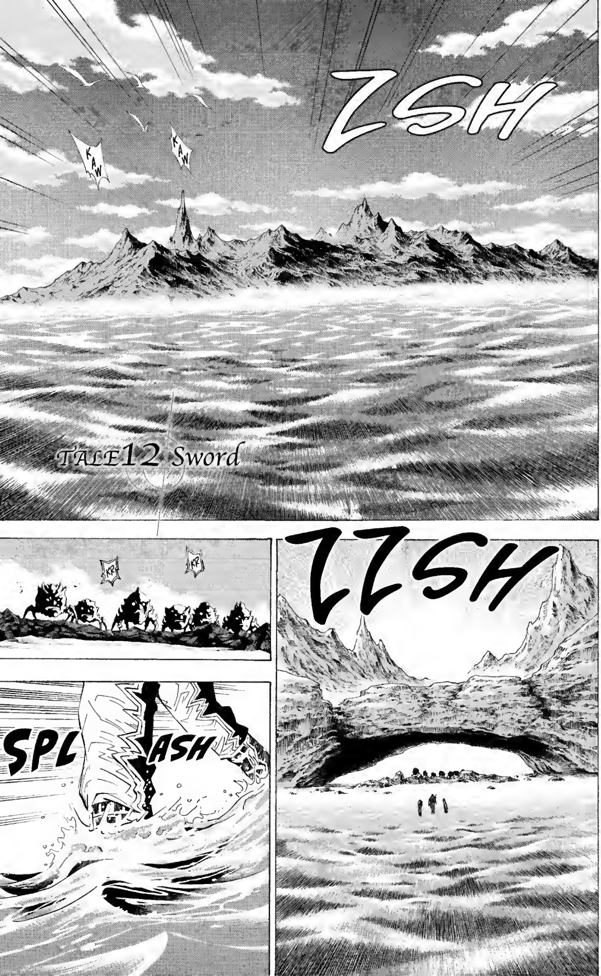

HE ADVISED US TO GATHER WEAPONS AND TAUGHT US STRATEGIES FOR DEFENDING AGAINST SHADOWS.
HE SAID THAT THIS ISLAND WOULD BE ALL RIGHT WITHOUT HIM, SO HE LEFT.
...
SO HE KNEW ABOUT THE DISAPPEARING GIRLS AND LEFT WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
WELL, YES...
BUT NOT WITHOUT REASON! SIR GANETTE WEIGHED THE IMPORTANCE OF FIGHTING THE SHADOW ARMIES OVERSEAS AGAINST A FEW MISSING GIRLS.
PLUS, HE SAID THAT EVEN IF SHADOWS WERE BEHIND THE DISAPPEARANCES, "THE ONES WHO WILL COME LATER" WOULD TAKE CARE OF IT.
AS THE SAYING GOES, "THOSE WHO STOP TO PICK UP SILVER WILL NEVER FIND THE GOLD."
EVEN THOUGH GANETTE IS THAT POWERFUL...
...HE WOULD ALLOW INNOCENT WOMEN TO DIE...

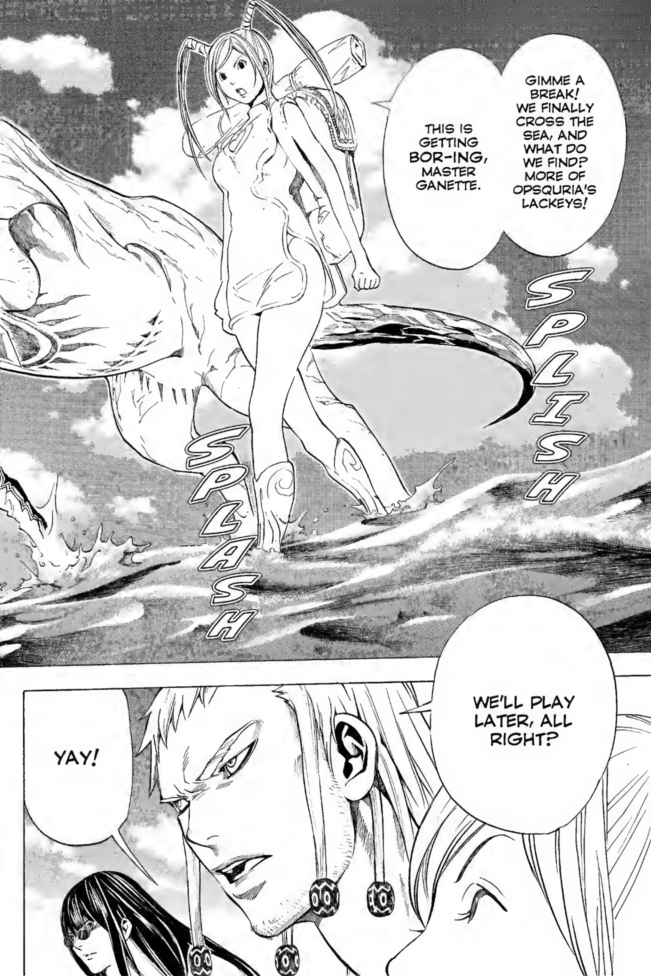

Ganette
...
WAS SIR GANETTE ALONE?
NO, HE HAD TWO COMPANIONS WITH HIM...
WHAT SORT OF SHADOWS DID THOSE TWO HAVE?
I DO NOT KNOW. THE ONLY THING WE SAW WAS THE WHITE TIGER KILLING THE SHADOWS INSTANTANEOUSLY.
HIS TWO ATTENDANTS ONLY STOOD BY AND WATCHED.
ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT THOSE TWO...

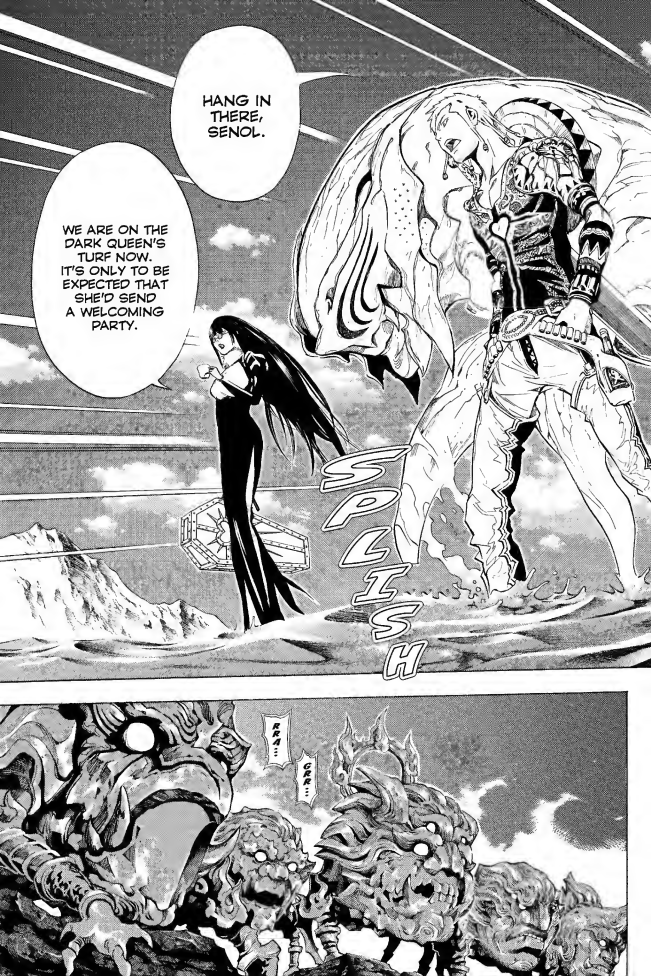

...IS THAT THEY WERE BOTH VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
Ganette
I'M GOING TOO!!
AND AS WE'LL BE IN ENEMY TERRITORY, IT'S REASSURING TO KNOW THAT THE WHITE TIGER HAS GONE BEFORE US.
INDEED.
AI.
YES, IT IS. BUT WE STILL HAVE TO PREPARE.
... RAL?
I WON'T LOSE TO HIM!
Ganette

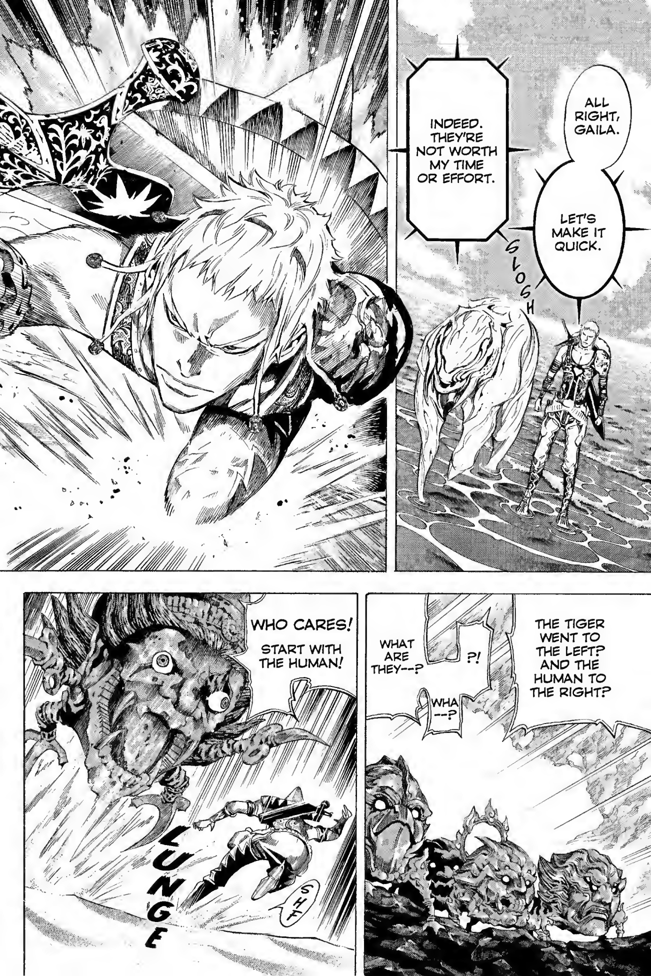
Ral Ω Grad

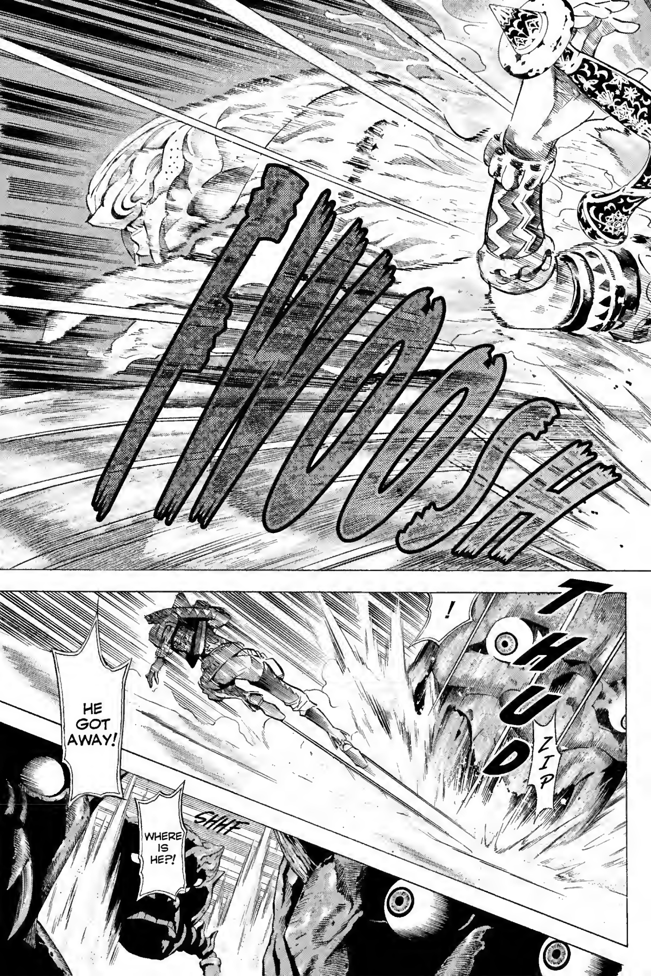
TALE 12 Sword

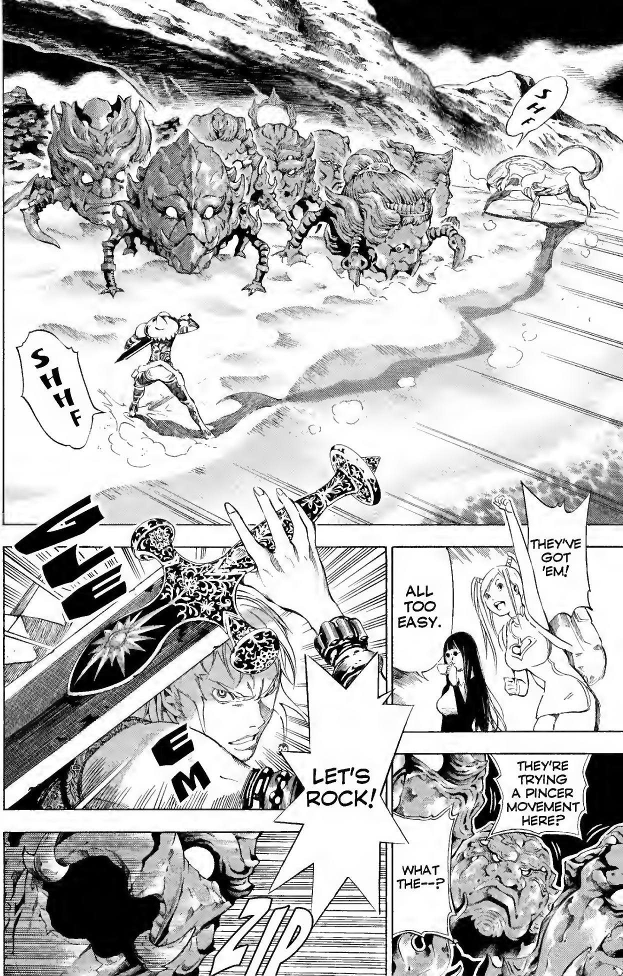

ZSH
KAW
KAW
ZZSH
KR
KR
SPLASH

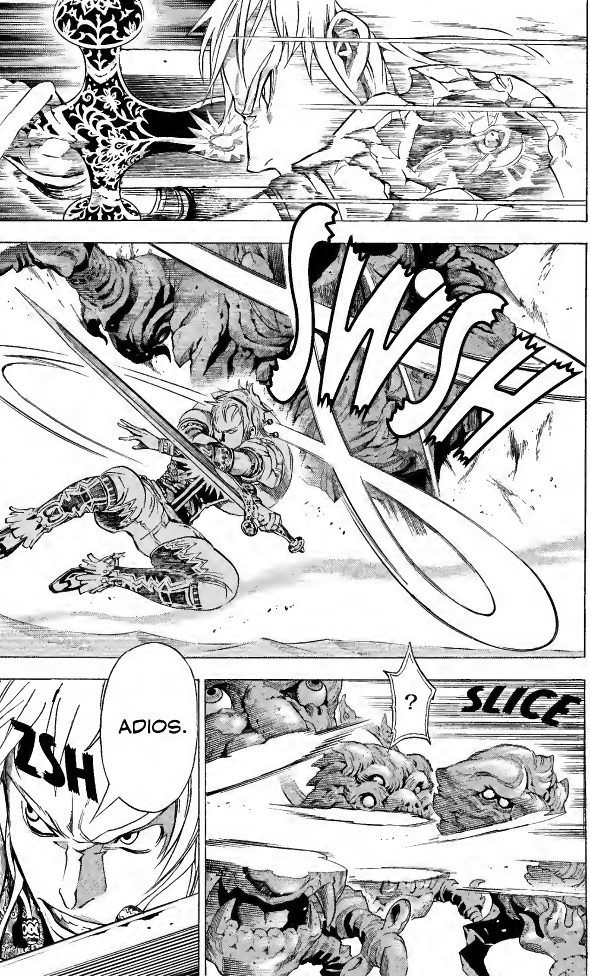

GIMME A BREAK! WE FINALLY CROSS THE SEA, AND WHAT DO WE FIND? MORE OF OPSQURIA'S LACKEYS!
THIS IS GETTING BOR-ING, MASTER GANETTE.
SPLISH
SPLASH
WE'LL PLAY LATER, ALL RIGHT?
YAY!

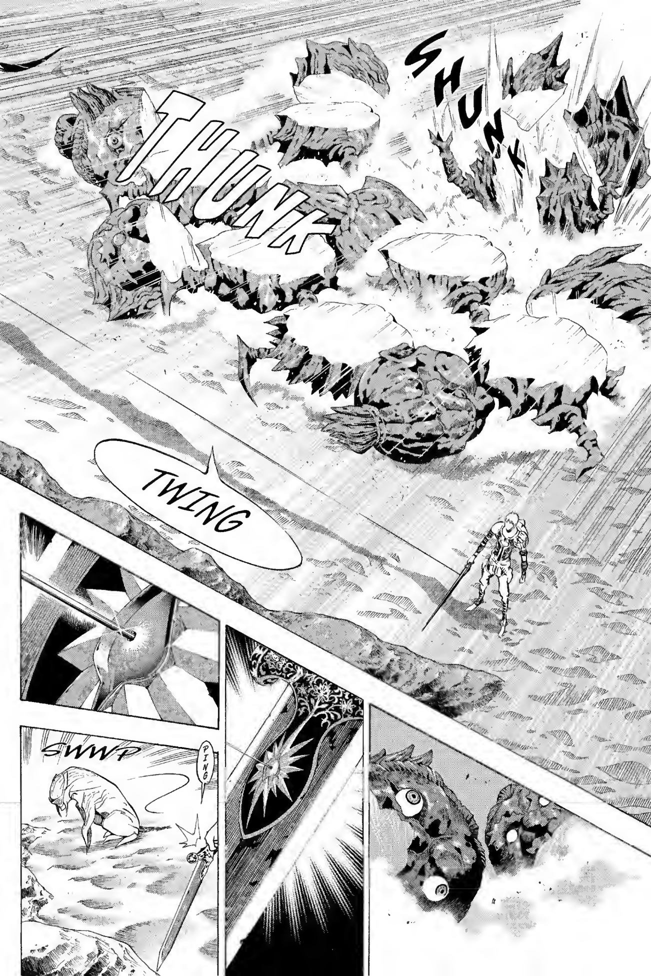

HANG IN THERE, SENOL.
WE ARE ON THE DARK QUEEN'S TURF NOW. IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT SHE'D SEND A WELCOMING PARTY.
SPLISH
RRA...
GRR...

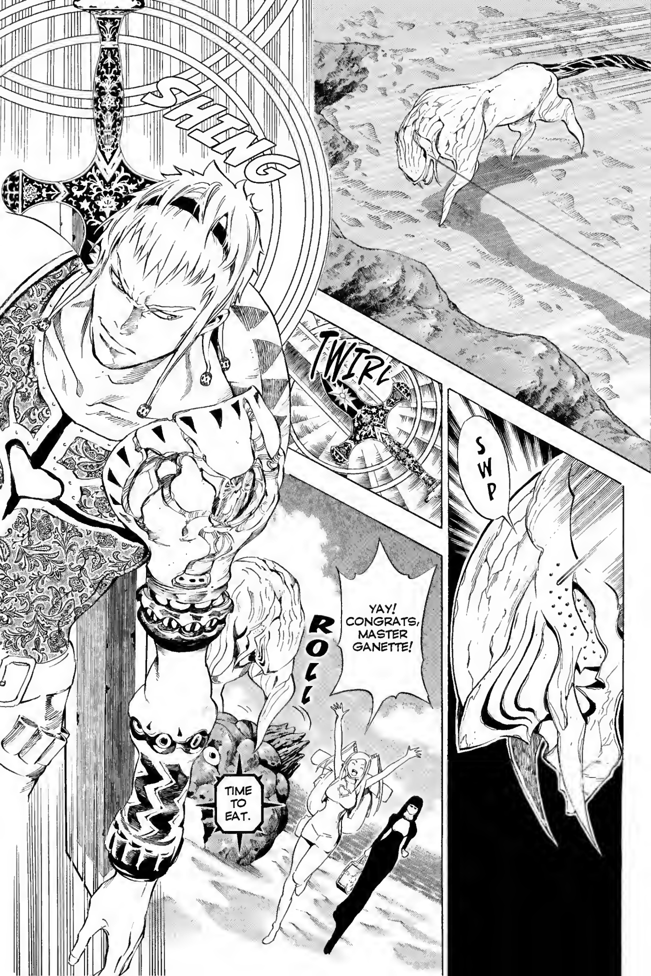

ALL RIGHT, GAILA.
LET'S MAKE IT QUICK.
INDEED. THEY'RE NOT WORTH MY TIME OR EFFORT.
SLOSH
THE TIGER WENT TO THE LEFT? AND THE HUMAN TO THE RIGHT?
?!
WHAT ARE THEY--?
WHA--?
WHO CARES!
START WITH THE HUMAN!
LUNGE
SHF

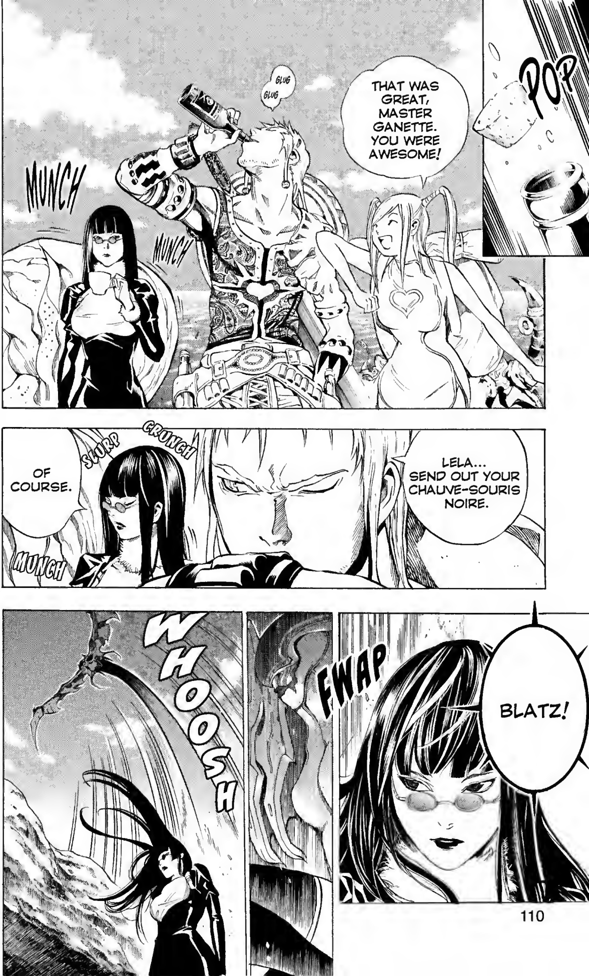

FWOOSH
!
THUD
ZIP
HE GOT AWAY!
SHHF
WHERE IS HE?!

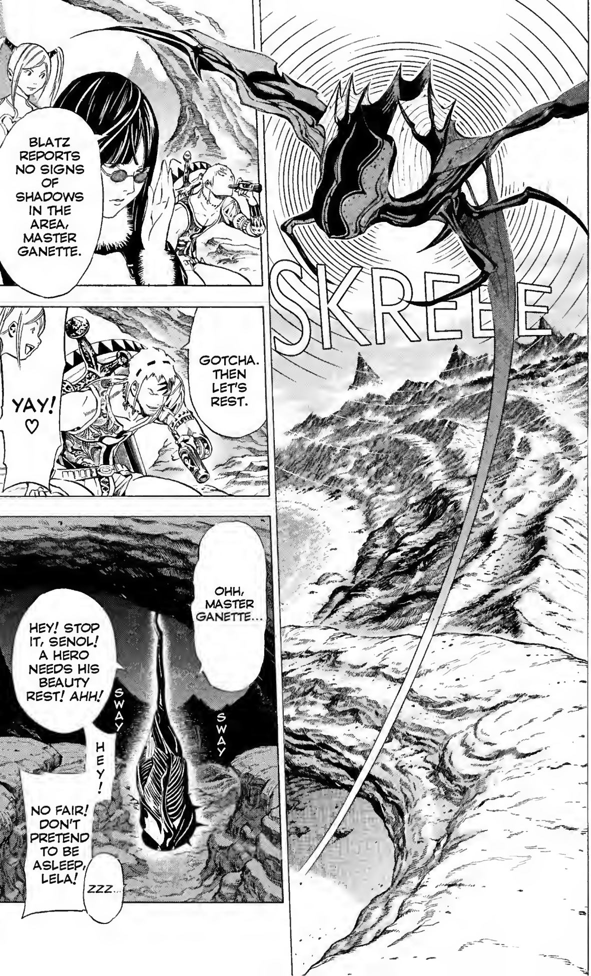

SHF
SHHF
THEY'VE GOT 'EM!
ALL TOO EASY.
GYE
EM
LET'S ROCK!
THEY'RE TRYING A PINCER MOVEMENT HERE?
WHAT THE--?
ZIP

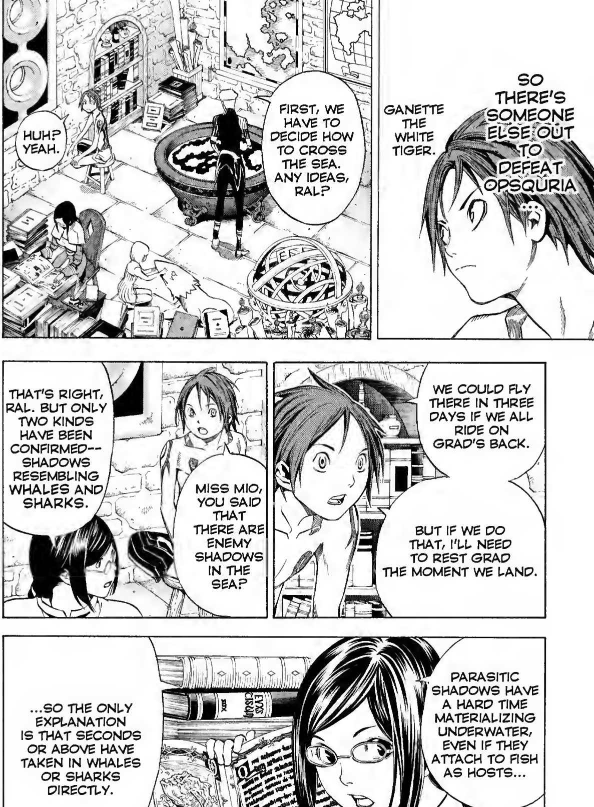

SWISH
ADIOS.
ZSH
?
SLICE

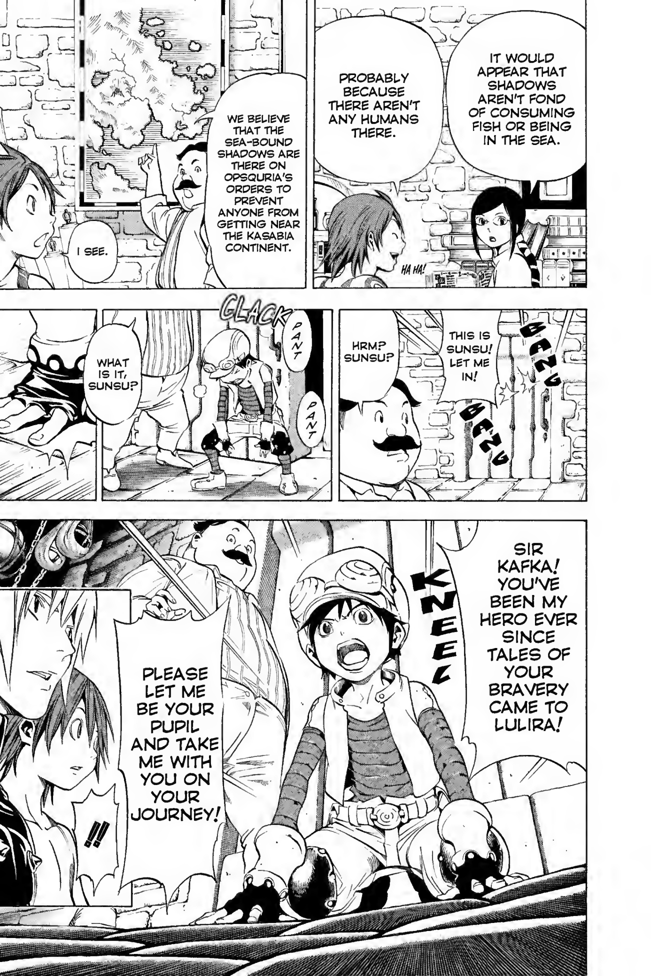

SHUNK
THUNK
TWING
PING
SWWP

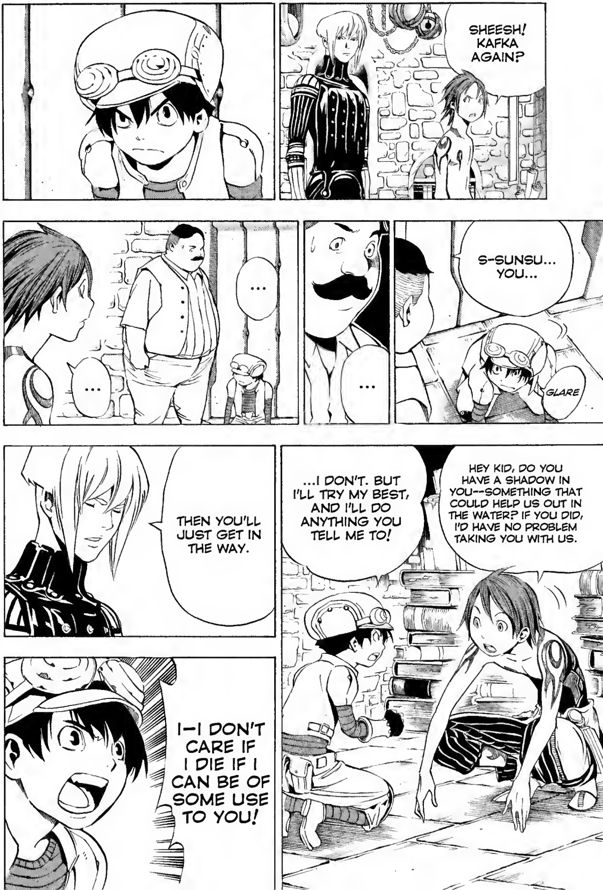

SHING
TWIRL
SWP
YAY! CONGRATS, MASTER GANETTE!
ROLL
TIME TO EAT.

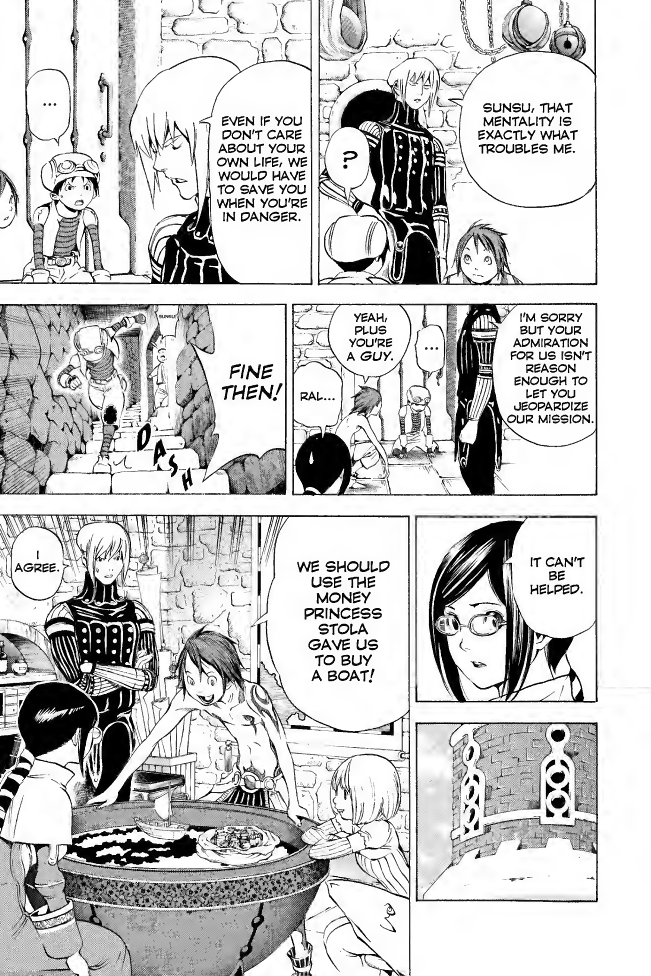

POP
THAT WAS GREAT, MASTER GANETTE. YOU WERE AWESOME!
GLUG GLUG
MUNCH
MUNCH
LELA... SEND OUT YOUR CHAUVE-SOURIS NOIRE.
CRUNCH
SLURP
OF COURSE.
MUNCH
BLATZ!
FWAP
WHOOSH

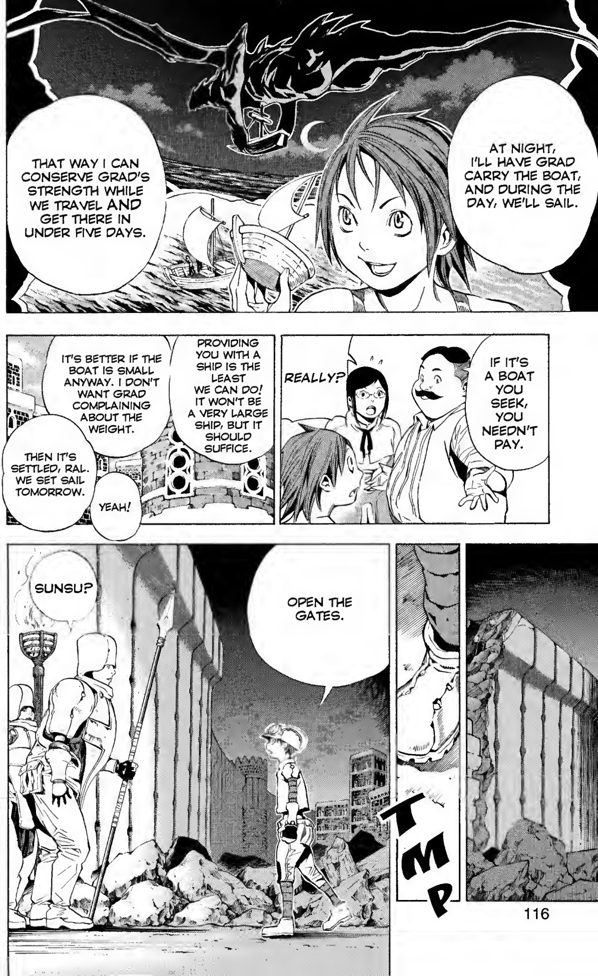

BLATZ REPORTS NO SIGNS OF SHADOWS IN THE AREA, MASTER GANETTE.
GOTCHA. THEN LET'S REST.
YAY! ♡
OHH, MASTER GANETTE...
HEY! STOP IT, SENOL! A HERO NEEDS HIS BEAUTY REST! AHH!
SWAY
SWAY
HEY!
NO FAIR! DON'T PRETEND TO BE ASLEEP, LELA!
ZZZ...
SKREEE

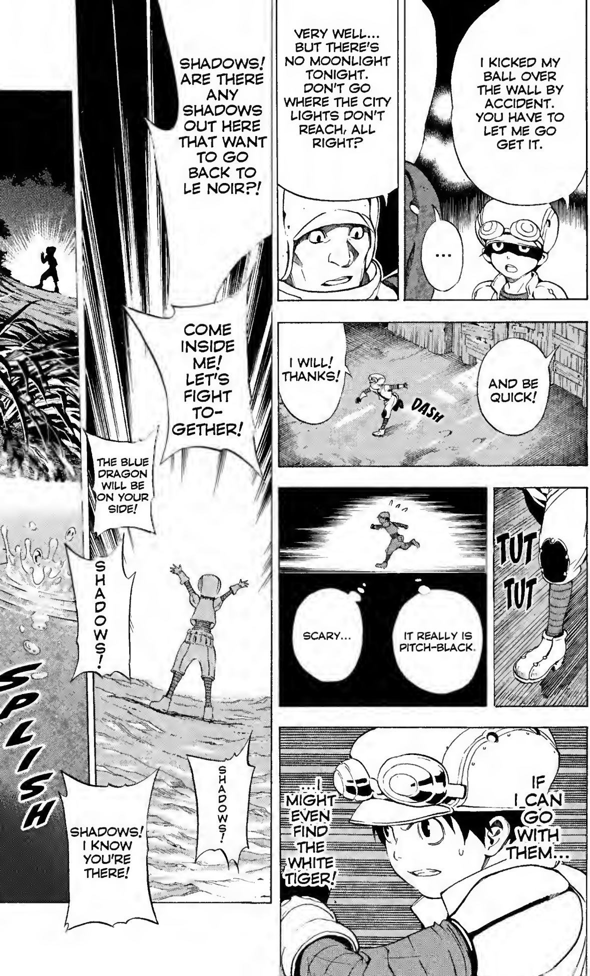

SO THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE OUT TO DEFEAT OPSQURIA...
GANETTE THE WHITE TIGER.
FIRST, WE HAVE TO DECIDE HOW TO CROSS THE SEA. ANY IDEAS, RAL?
HUH? YEAH.
WE COULD FLY THERE IN THREE DAYS IF WE ALL RIDE ON GRAD'S BACK.
BUT IF WE DO THAT, I'LL NEED TO REST GRAD THE MOMENT WE LAND.
MISS MIO, YOU SAID THAT THERE ARE ENEMY SHADOWS IN THE SEA?
THAT'S RIGHT, RAL. BUT ONLY TWO KINDS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED--SHADOWS RESEMBLING WHALES AND SHARKS.
PARASITIC SHADOWS HAVE A HARD TIME MATERIALIZING UNDERWATER, EVEN IF THEY ATTACH TO FISH AS HOSTS...
...SO THE ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT SECONDS OR ABOVE HAVE TAKEN IN WHALES OR SHARKS DIRECTLY.

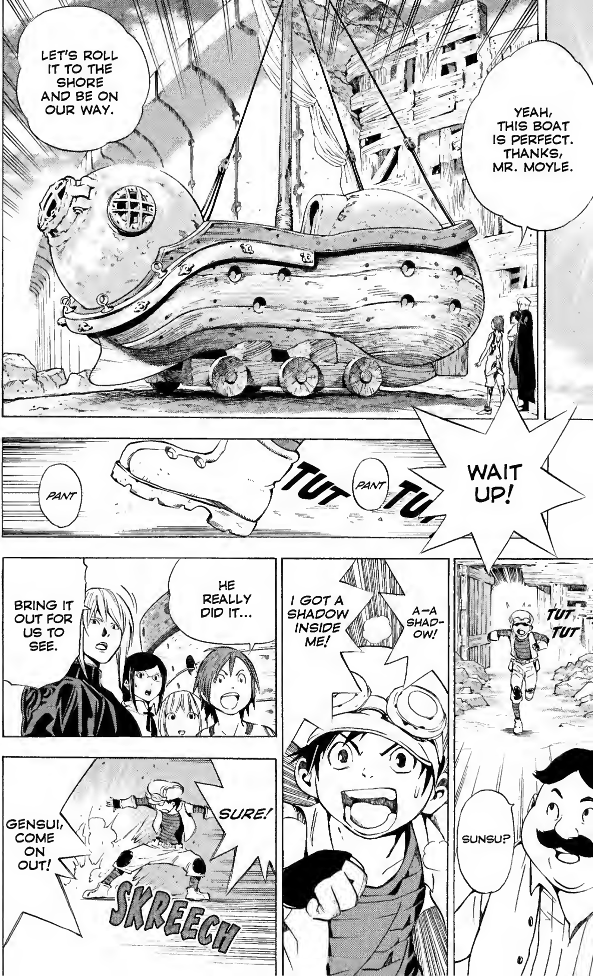

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SHADOWS AREN'T FOND OF CONSUMING FISH OR BEING IN THE SEA.
PROBABLY BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ANY HUMANS THERE.
HA HA!
WE BELIEVE THAT THE SEA-BOUND SHADOWS ARE THERE ON OPSQURIA'S ORDERS TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM GETTING NEAR THE KASABIA CONTINENT.
I SEE.
BANG
BANG
THIS IS SUNSU! LET ME IN!
HRM? SUNSU?
GLACK
PANT
PANT
WHAT IS IT, SUNSU?
KNEEL
SIR KAFKA! YOU'VE BEEN MY HERO EVER SINCE TALES OF YOUR BRAVERY CAME TO LULIRA!
PLEASE LET ME BE YOUR PUPIL AND TAKE ME WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY!
!!

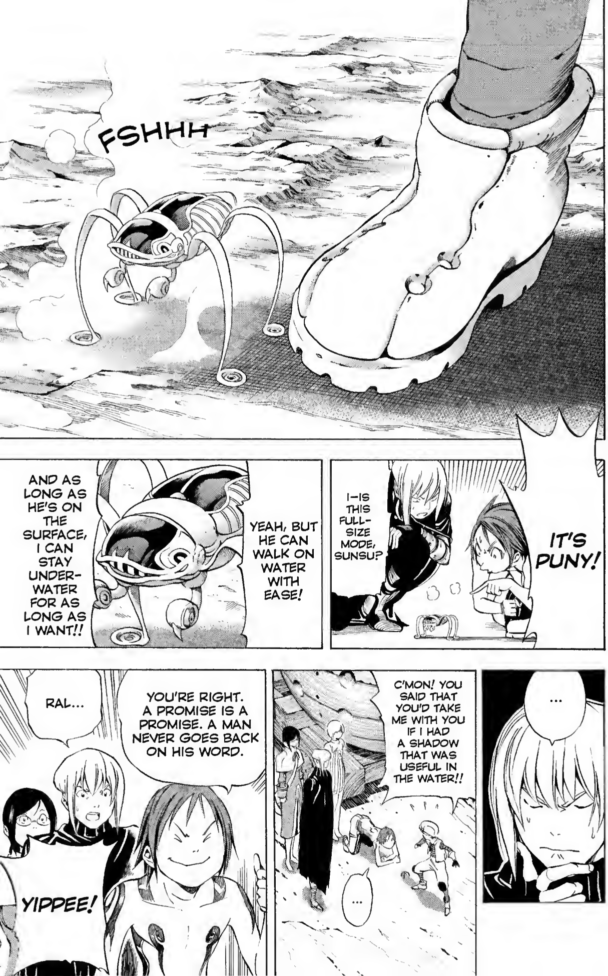

SHEESH! KAFKA AGAIN?
S-SUNSU... YOU...
GLARE
...
...
...
HEY KID, DO YOU HAVE A SHADOW IN YOU--SOMETHING THAT COULD HELP US OUT IN THE WATER? IF YOU DID, I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM TAKING YOU WITH US.
...I DON'T. BUT I'LL TRY MY BEST, AND I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO!
THEN YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
I-I DON'T CARE IF I DIE IF I CAN BE OF SOME USE TO YOU!

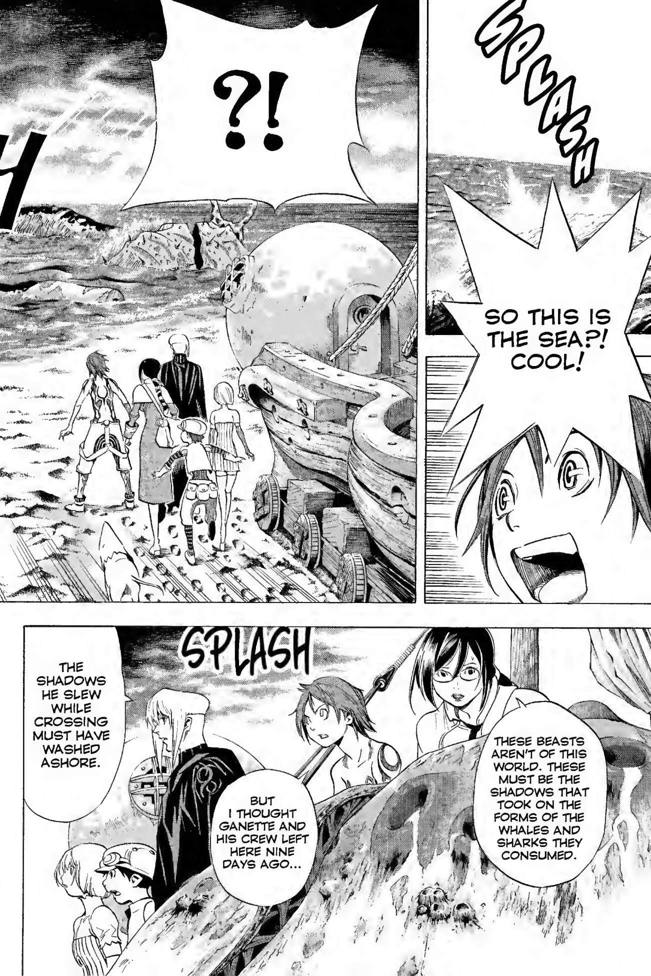

SUNSU, THAT MENTALITY IS EXACTLY WHAT TROUBLES ME.
?
EVEN IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE, WE WOULD HAVE TO SAVE YOU WHEN YOU'RE IN DANGER.
...
I'M SORRY BUT YOUR ADMIRATION FOR US ISN'T REASON ENOUGH TO LET YOU JEOPARDIZE OUR MISSION.
...
YEAH, PLUS YOU'RE A *GUY*.
RAL...
FINE THEN!
DASH
SUNSU!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WE SHOULD USE THE MONEY PRINCESS STOLA GAVE US TO BUY A BOAT!
I AGREE.

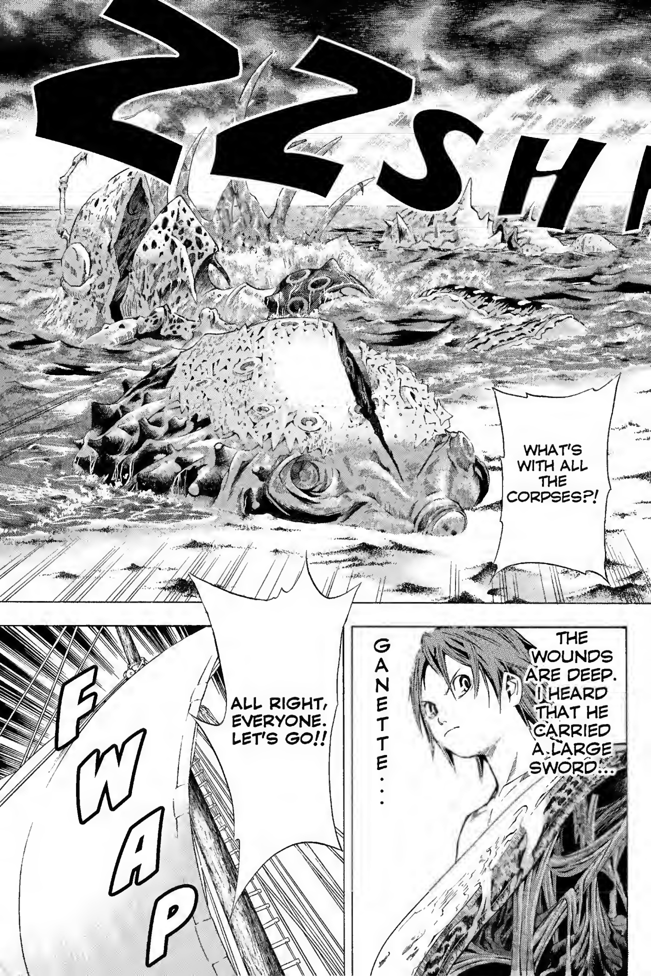

AT NIGHT, I'LL HAVE GRAD CARRY THE BOAT, AND DURING THE DAY, WE'LL SAIL.
THAT WAY I CAN CONSERVE GRAD'S STRENGTH WHILE WE TRAVEL AND GET THERE IN UNDER FIVE DAYS.
IF IT'S A BOAT YOU SEEK, YOU NEEDN'T PAY.
REALLY?
PROVIDING YOU WITH A SHIP IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO! IT WON'T BE A VERY LARGE SHIP, BUT IT SHOULD SUFFICE.
IT'S BETTER IF THE BOAT IS SMALL ANYWAY. I DON'T WANT GRAD COMPLAINING ABOUT THE WEIGHT.
THEN IT'S SETTLED, RAL. WE SET SAIL TOMORROW.
YEAH!
TMP
OPEN THE GATES.
SUNSU?


I KICKED MY BALL OVER THE WALL BY ACCIDENT. YOU HAVE TO LET ME GO GET IT.
...
VERY WELL... BUT THERE'S NO MOONLIGHT TONIGHT. DON'T GO WHERE THE CITY LIGHTS DON'T REACH, ALL RIGHT?
I WILL! THANKS!
AND BE QUICK!
DASH
TUT TUT
IT REALLY IS PITCH-BLACK.
SCARY...
IF I CAN GO WITH THEM...
...I MIGHT EVEN FIND THE WHITE TIGER!
SHADOWS! ARE THERE ANY SHADOWS OUT HERE THAT WANT TO GO BACK TO LE NOIR?!
COME INSIDE ME! LET'S FIGHT TOGETHER!
THE BLUE DRAGON WILL BE ON YOUR SIDE!
SHADOWS!
SHADOWS!
SHADOWS! I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!
SPLISH

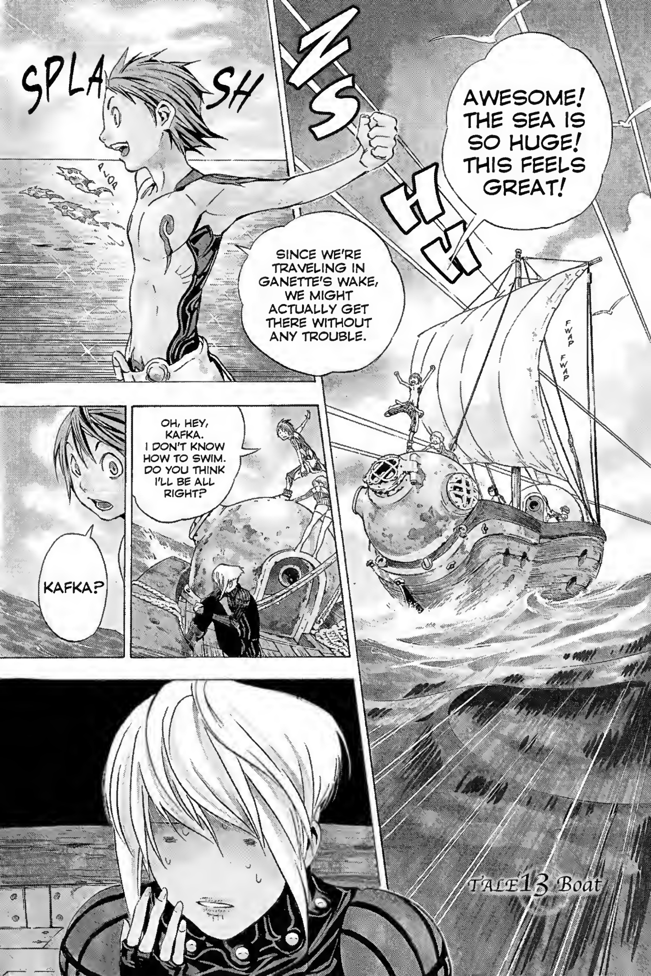

YEAH, THIS BOAT IS PERFECT. THANKS, MR. MOYLE.
LET'S ROLL IT TO THE SHORE AND BE ON OUR WAY.
WAIT UP!
TUT TU
PANT
TUT
PANT
TUT TUT
SUNSU?
A-A SHADOW!
I GOT A SHADOW INSIDE ME!
HE REALLY DID IT...
BRING IT OUT FOR US TO SEE.
SURE!
GENSUI, COME ON OUT!
SKREECH


FSHHH
I-IS THIS FULL-SIZE MODE, SUNSU?
IT'S PUNY!
YEAH, BUT HE CAN WALK ON WATER WITH EASE!
AND AS LONG AS HE'S ON THE SURFACE, I CAN STAY UNDERWATER FOR AS LONG AS I WANT!!
...
C'MON! YOU SAID THAT YOU'D TAKE ME WITH YOU IF I HAD A SHADOW THAT WAS USEFUL IN THE WATER!!
...
YOU'RE RIGHT. A PROMISE IS A PROMISE. A MAN NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD.
RAL...
YIPPEE!


SPLASH
SO THIS IS THE SEA?! COOL!
?!
H
SPLASH
THESE BEASTS AREN'T OF THIS WORLD. THESE MUST BE THE SHADOWS THAT TOOK ON THE FORMS OF THE WHALES AND SHARKS THEY CONSUMED.
BUT I THOUGHT GANETTE AND HIS CREW LEFT HERE NINE DAYS AGO...
THE SHADOWS HE SLEW WHILE CROSSING MUST HAVE WASHED ASHORE.


ZZSHH
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE CORPSES?!
THE WOUNDS ARE DEEP. I HEARD THAT HE CARRIED A LARGE SWORD...
GANETTE...
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. LET'S GO!!
FWAP

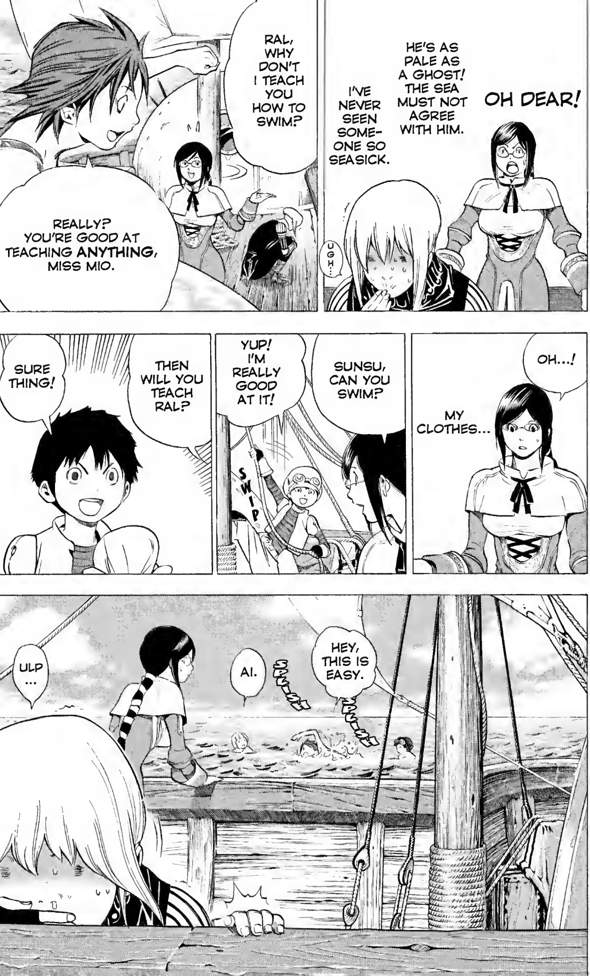
Ral Ω Grad

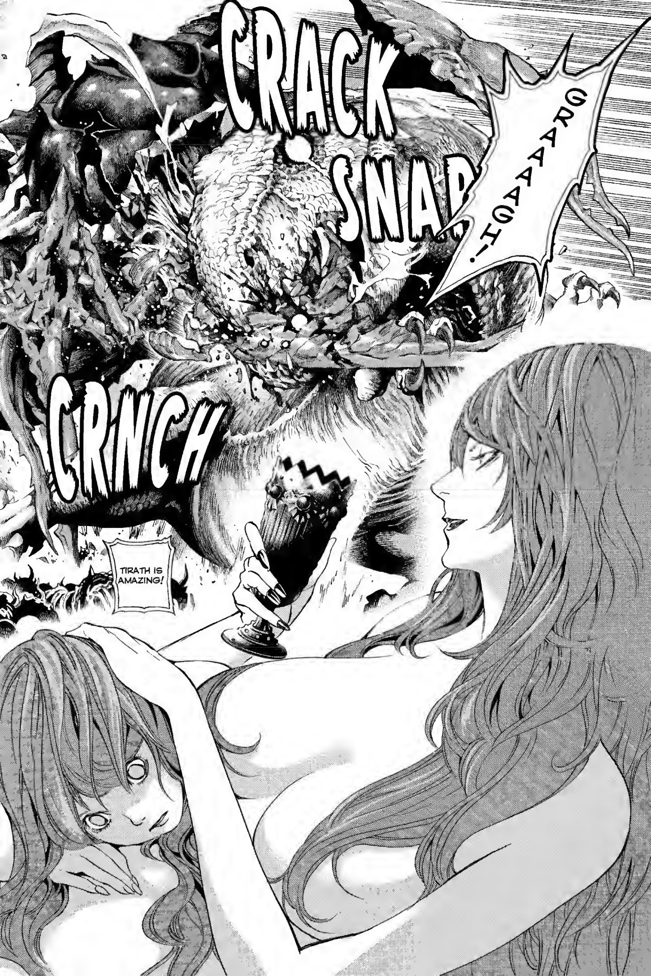

SWISHH
AWESOME! THE SEA IS SO HUGE! THIS FEELS GREAT!
SPLASH
SINCE WE'RE TRAVELING IN GANETTE'S WAKE, WE MIGHT ACTUALLY GET THERE WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.
FWAP FWAP
OH, HEY, KAFKA. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM. DO YOU THINK I'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
KAFKA?

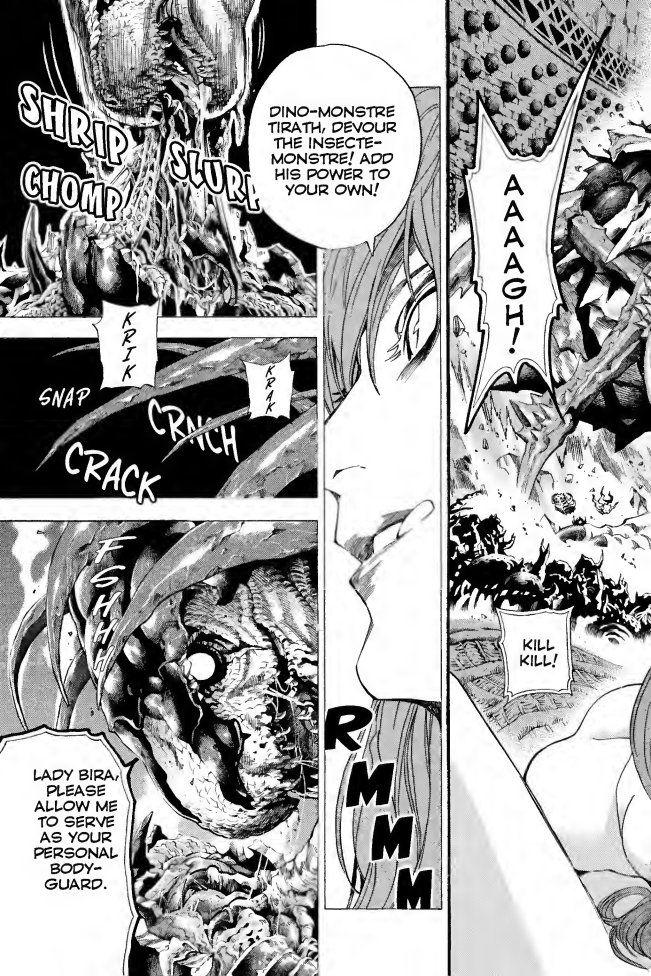
TALE 13 Boat

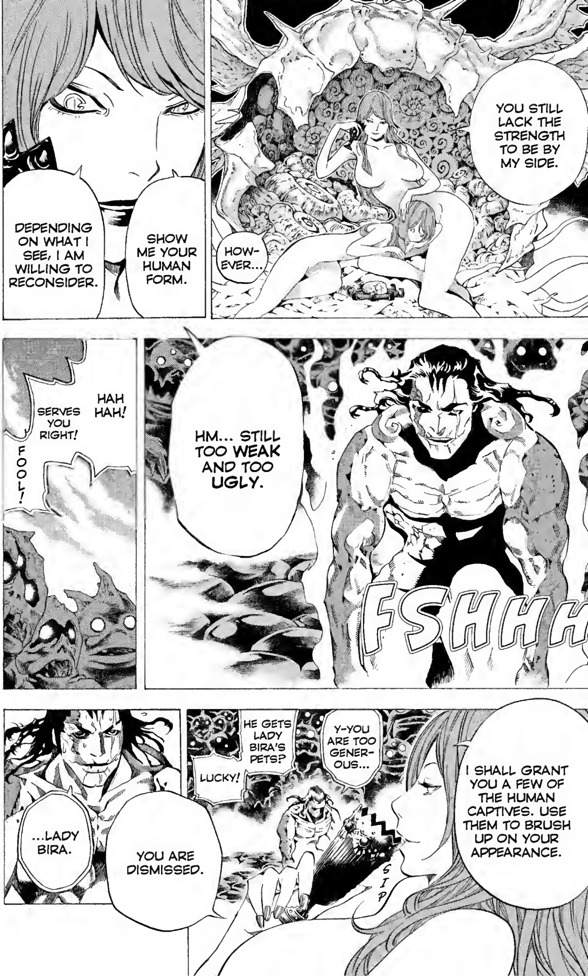
TALE 13 Boat

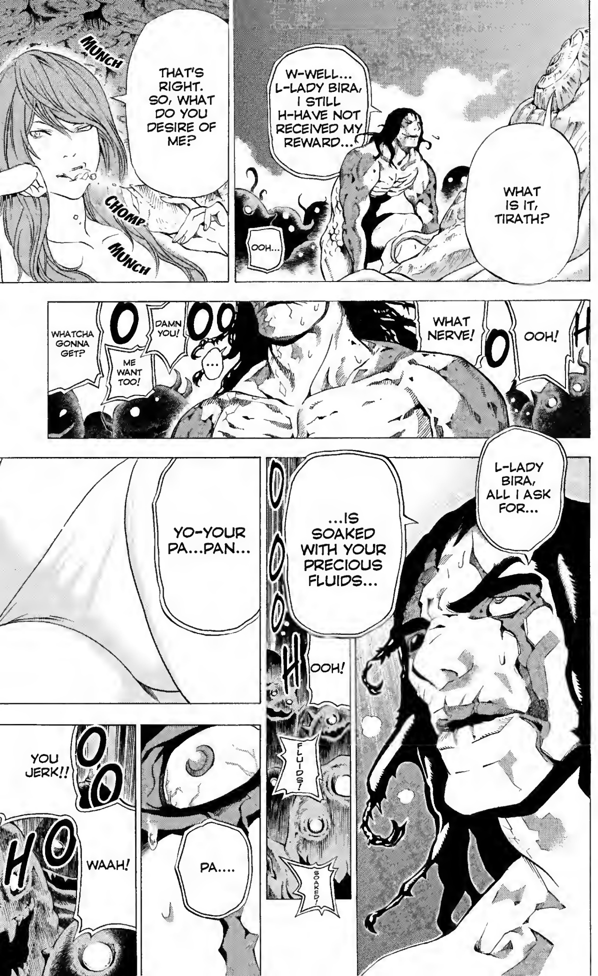
RalOGrad

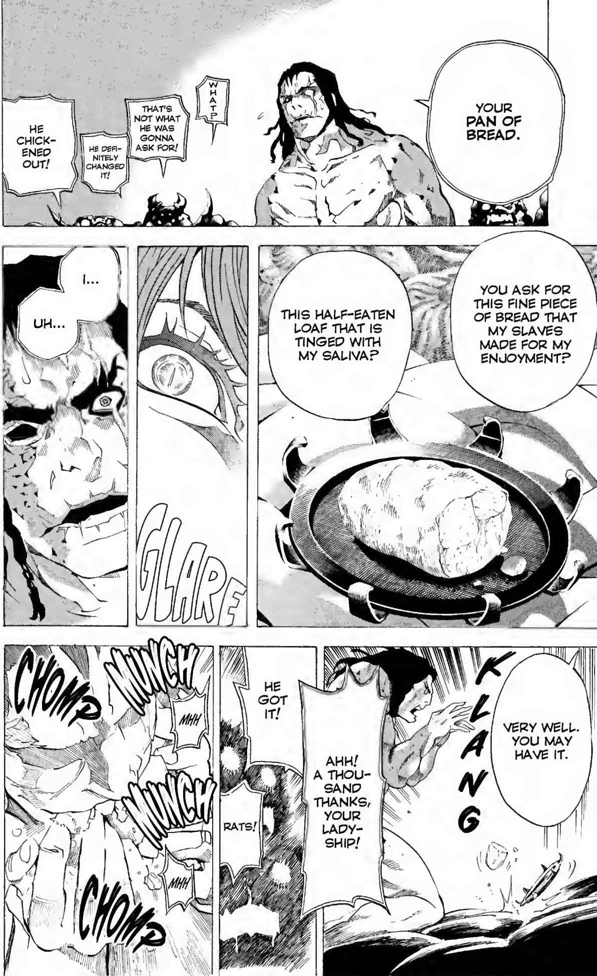

OH DEAR!
HE'S AS PALE AS A GHOST! THE SEA MUST NOT AGREE WITH HIM.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOME-ONE SO SEASICK.
UGH...
RAL, WHY DON'T I TEACH YOU HOW TO SWIM?
REALLY? YOU'RE GOOD AT TEACHING **ANYTHING**, MISS MIO.
OH...!
MY CLOTHES...
SUNSU, CAN YOU SWIM?
YUP! I'M REALLY GOOD AT IT!
SWIP
THEN WILL YOU TEACH RAL?
SURE THING!
HEY, THIS IS EASY.
SPLISH
SPLISH
AI.
ULP ...

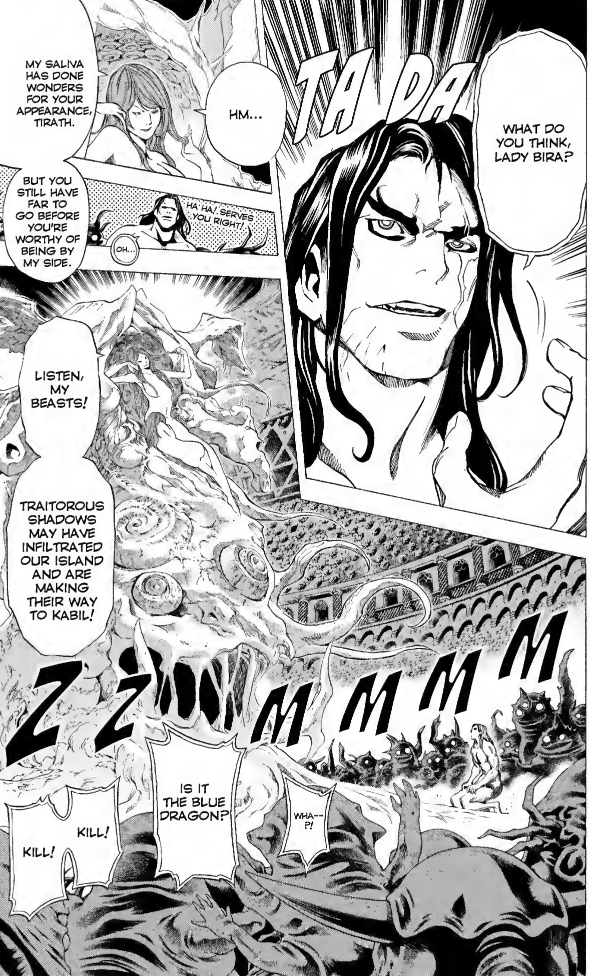

GRAAAGH!
CRACK
SNAP
CRNCH
TIRATH IS AMAZING!

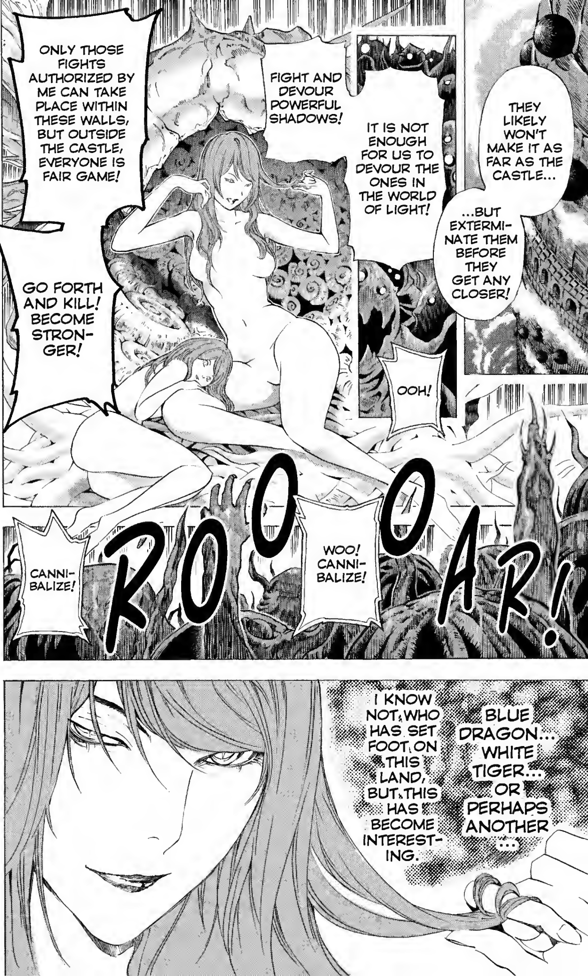

AAAAAGH!
KILL KILL!
DINO-MONSTRE TIRATH, DEVOUR THE INSECTE-MONSTRE! ADD HIS POWER TO YOUR OWN!
RMMMM
SLURP
SHRIP
CHOMP
KRAK
KRIK
CRNCH
SNAP
CRACK
FSHHH
LADY BIRA, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SERVE AS YOUR PERSONAL BODYGUARD.

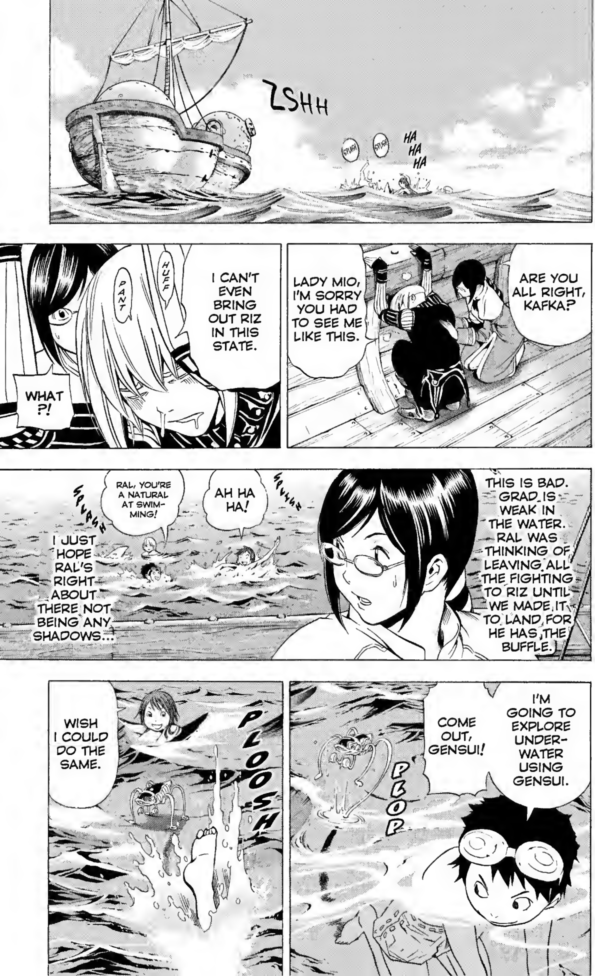

YOU STILL LACK THE STRENGTH TO BE BY MY SIDE.
HOW-EVER...
SHOW ME YOUR HUMAN FORM.
DEPENDING ON WHAT I SEE, I AM WILLING TO RECONSIDER.
FSHHH
HM... STILL TOO WEAK AND TOO UGLY.
HAH HAH!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
FOOL!
I SHALL GRANT YOU A FEW OF THE HUMAN CAPTIVES. USE THEM TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR APPEARANCE.
SIP
Y-YOU ARE TOO GENEROUS...
HE GETS LADY BIRA'S PETS?
LUCKY!
YOU ARE DISMISSED.
...LADY BIRA.

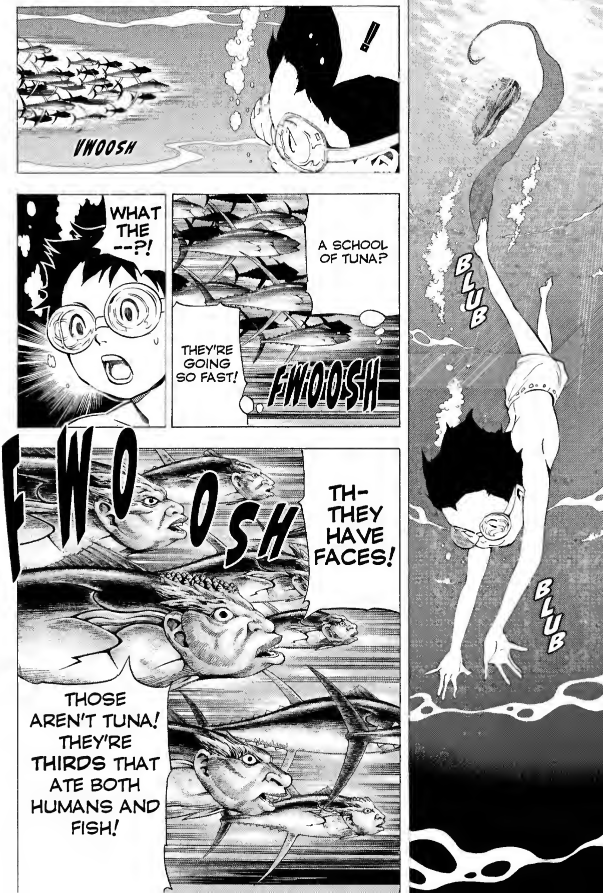

WHAT IS IT, TIRATH?
W-WELL... L-LADY BIRA, I STILL H-HAVE NOT RECEIVED MY REWARD...
OOH...
THAT'S RIGHT. SO, WHAT DO YOU DESIRE OF ME?
MUNCH
CHOMP
MUNCH
H
OOH!
O
WHAT NERVE!
OO
...
DAMN YOU!
O
ME WANT TOO!
WHATCHA GONNA GET?
L-LADY BIRA, ALL I ASK FOR...
...IS SOAKED WITH YOUR PRECIOUS FLUIDS...
OOOOH
OOH!
FLUIDS!
SOAKED!
YO-YOUR PA...PAN...
PA....
OO
YOU JERK!!
HO
WAAH!

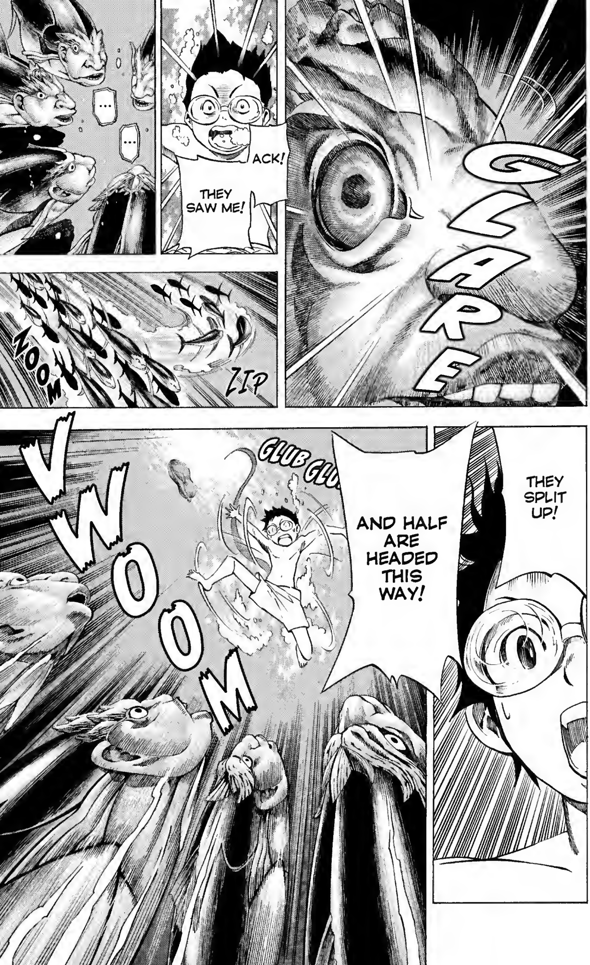

YOUR PAN OF BREAD.
WHAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE WAS GONNA ASK FOR!
HE DEFINITELY CHANGED IT!
HE CHICKENED OUT!
YOU ASK FOR THIS FINE PIECE OF BREAD THAT MY SLAVES MADE FOR MY ENJOYMENT?
THIS HALF-EATEN LOAF THAT IS TINGED WITH MY SALIVA?
GLARE
I...
UH...
KLANG
VERY WELL. YOU MAY HAVE IT.
HE GOT IT!
AHH! A THOUSAND THANKS, YOUR LADYSHIP!
RATS!
CHOMP
MUNCH
MHH
MUNCH
MHH
CHOMP

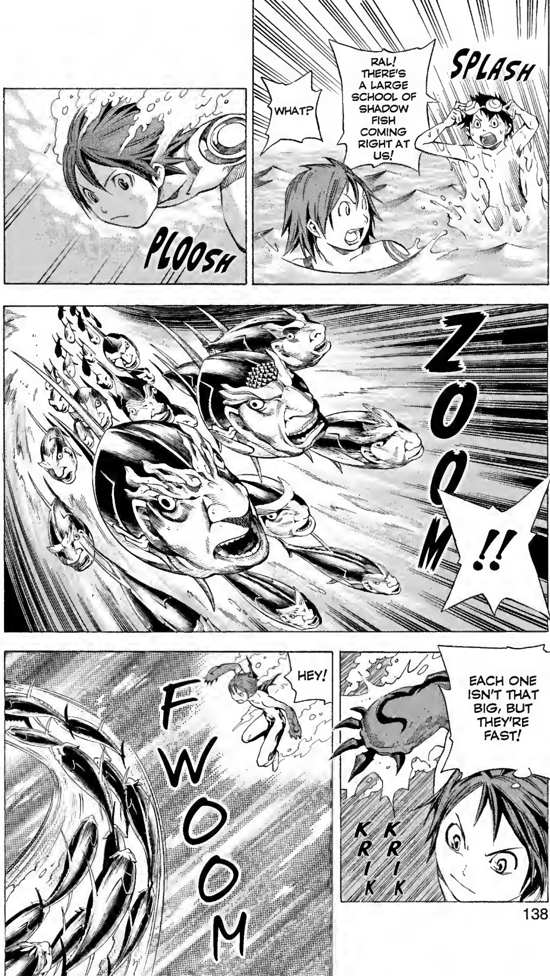

TA DA
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LADY BIRA?
HM...
MY SALIVA HAS DONE WONDERS FOR YOUR APPEARANCE, TIRATH.
BUT YOU STILL HAVE FAR TO GO BEFORE YOU'RE WORTHY OF BEING BY MY SIDE.
HA HA! SERVES YOU RIGHT!
OH...
LISTEN, MY BEASTS!
TRAITOROUS SHADOWS MAY HAVE INFILTRATED OUR ISLAND AND ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO KABIL!
ZZMMMMM
WHA--?!
IS IT THE BLUE DRAGON?
KILL!
KILL!

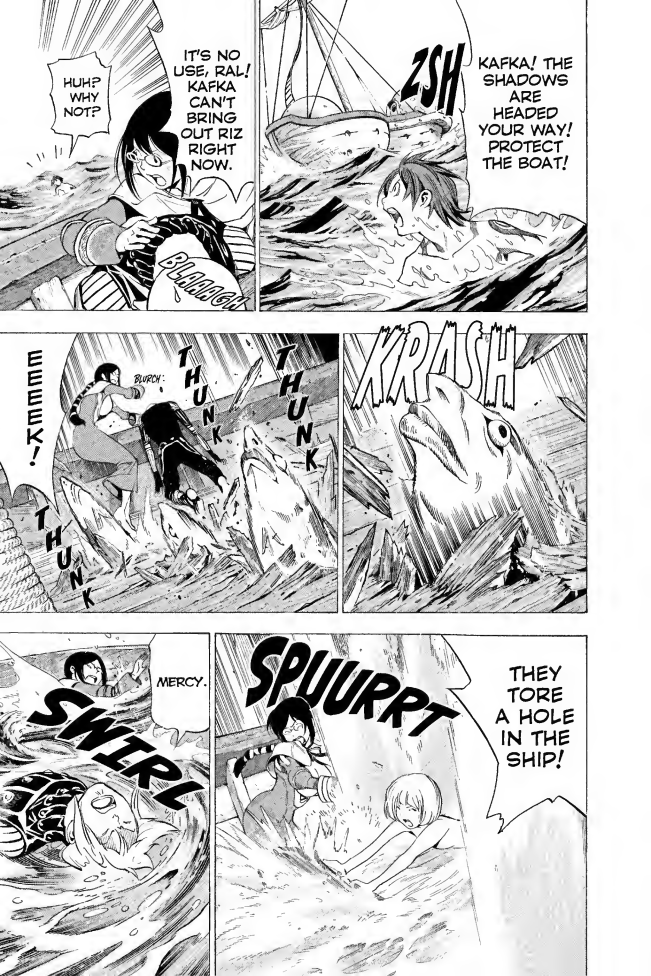

THEY LIKELY WON'T MAKE IT AS FAR AS THE CASTLE...
...BUT EXTERMINATE THEM BEFORE THEY GET ANY CLOSER!
IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR US TO DEVOUR THE ONES IN THE WORLD OF LIGHT!
FIGHT AND DEVOUR POWERFUL SHADOWS!
ONLY THOSE FIGHTS AUTHORIZED BY ME CAN TAKE PLACE WITHIN THESE WALLS, BUT OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, EVERYONE IS FAIR GAME!
GO FORTH AND KILL! BECOME STRONGER!
OOH!
ROOOAR!
WOO! CANNIBALIZE!
CANNIBALIZE!
BLUE DRAGON... WHITE TIGER... OR PERHAPS ANOTHER...
I KNOW NOT WHO HAS SET FOOT ON THIS LAND, BUT THIS HAS BECOME INTERESTING.

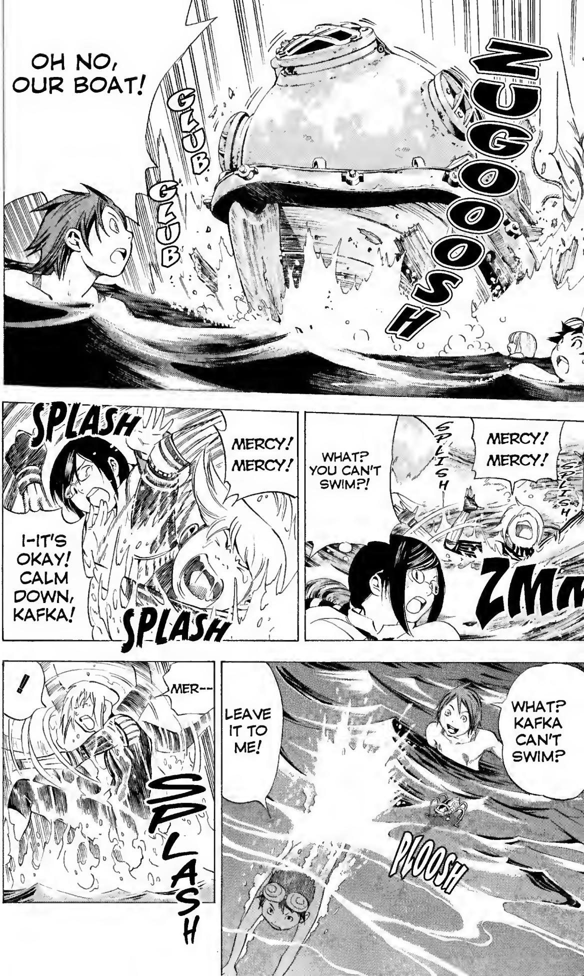

ZSHH
SPLASH
SPLASH
HA HA HA
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KAFKA?
LADY MIO, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.
HUFF
PANT
I CAN'T EVEN BRING OUT RIZ IN THIS STATE.
WHAT ?!
THIS IS BAD. GRAD IS WEAK IN THE WATER. RAL WAS THINKING OF LEAVING ALL THE FIGHTING TO RIZ UNTIL WE MADE IT TO LAND, FOR HE HAS THE BUFFLE.
SPLASH
AH HA HA!
RAL, YOU'RE A NATURAL AT SWIMMING!
SPLASH
I JUST HOPE RAL'S RIGHT ABOUT THERE NOT BEING ANY SHADOWS...
I'M GOING TO EXPLORE UNDER-WATER USING GENSUI.
COME OUT, GENSUI!
PLOP
PLOOSH
WISH I COULD DO THE SAME.

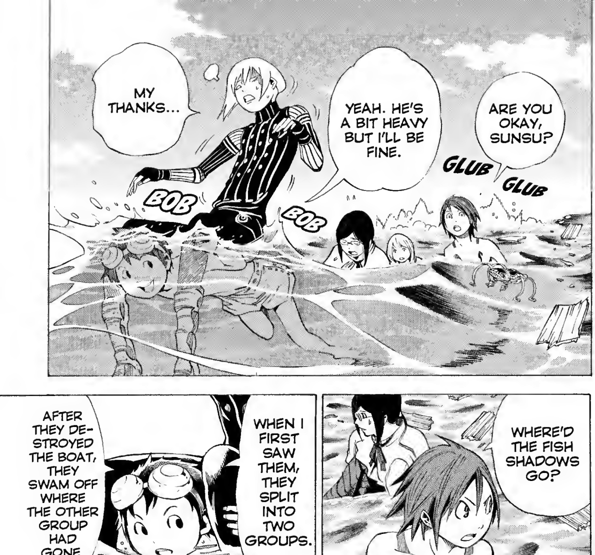

BLUB
BLUB
!
VWOOSH
A SCHOOL OF TUNA?
THEY'RE GOING SO FAST!
FWOOSH
WHAT THE --?!
FWOOSH
TH-THEY HAVE FACES!
THOSE AREN'T TUNA! THEY'RE THIRDS THAT ATE BOTH HUMANS AND FISH!

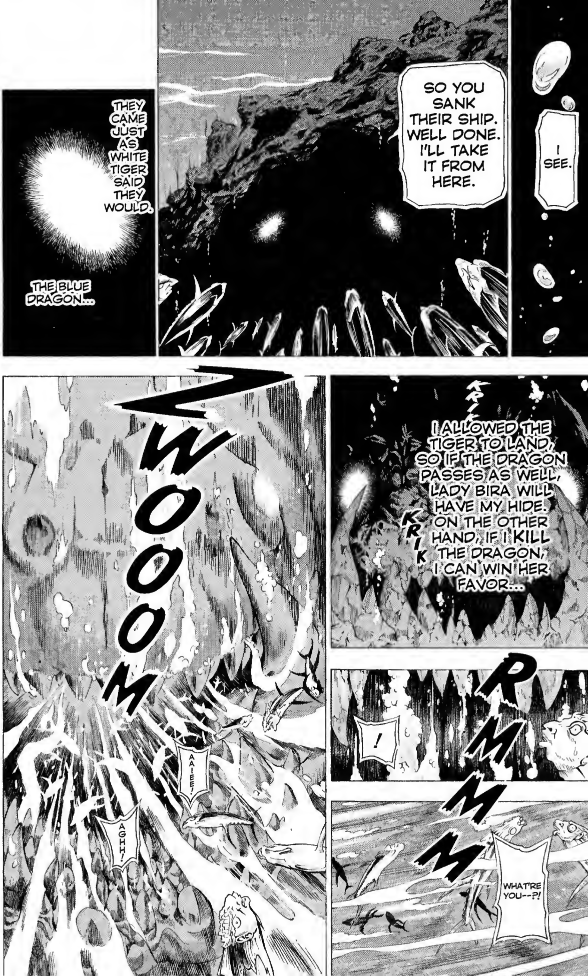

GLARE
ACK!
THEY SAW ME!
...
...
ZIP
NOOM
THEY SPLIT UP!
AND HALF ARE HEADED THIS WAY!
GLUB GLUB
VWOOM


SPLASH
RAL! THERE'S A LARGE SCHOOL OF SHADOW FISH COMING RIGHT AT US!
WHAT?
PLOOSH
ZOOM
!!
EACH ONE ISN'T THAT BIG, BUT THEY'RE FAST!
KRIK KRIK
HEY!
FWOOM

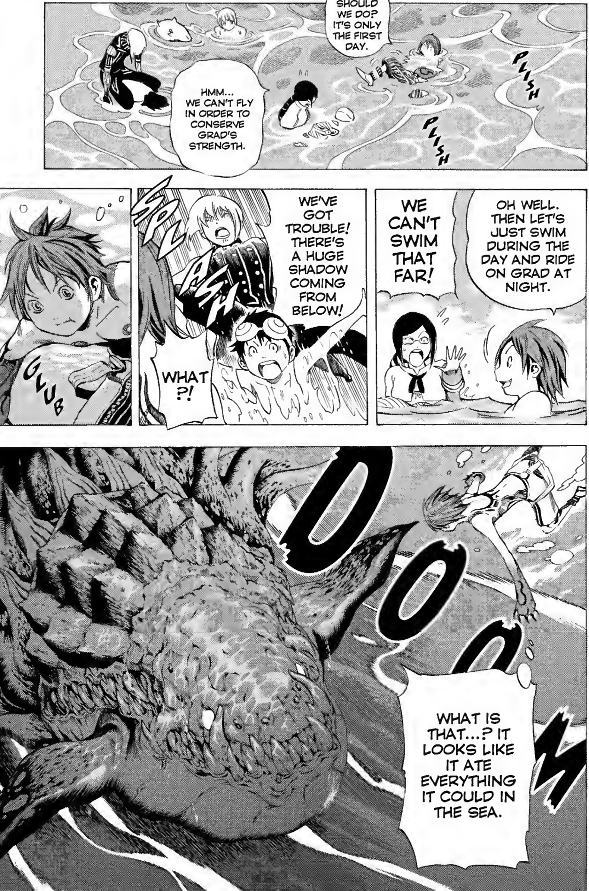

ZSH
KAFKA! THE SHADOWS ARE HEADED YOUR WAY! PROTECT THE BOAT!
IT'S NO USE, RAL! KAFKA CAN'T BRING OUT RIZ RIGHT NOW.
HUH? WHY NOT?
BLAAAGH
KRASH
THUNK
THUNK
BLURCH
EEEEK!
THUNK
THEY TORE A HOLE IN THE SHIP!
SPUURRT
MERCY.
SWIRL

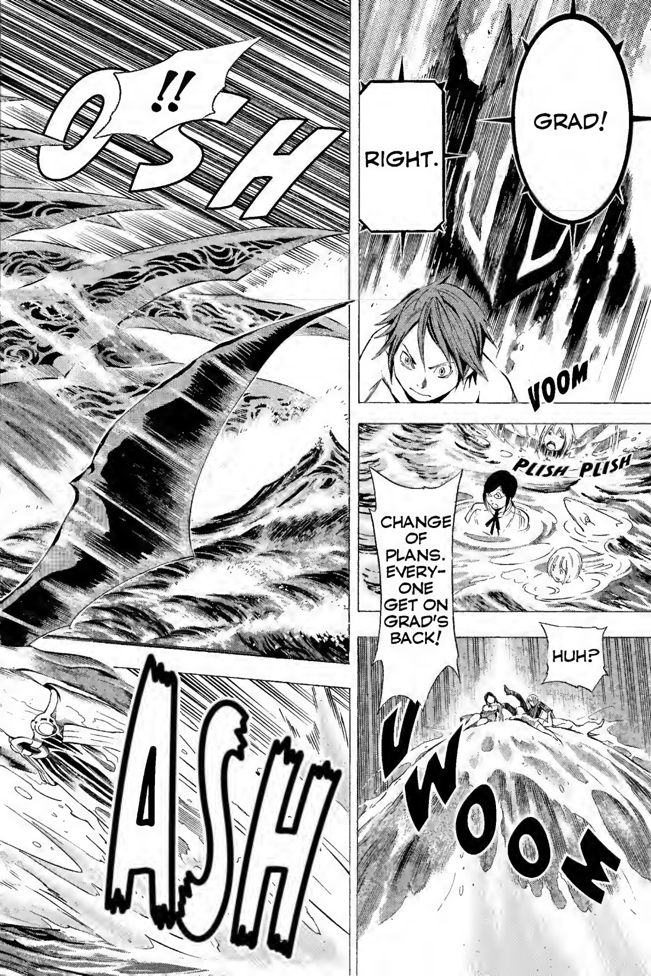

ZUGOOOSH
GLUB
GLUB
OH NO, OUR BOAT!
MERCY! MERCY!
SPLISH
SPLISH
WHAT? YOU CAN'T SWIM?!
ZMM
SPLASH
MERCY! MERCY!
I-IT'S OKAY! CALM DOWN, KAFKA!
SPLASH
WHAT? KAFKA CAN'T SWIM?
LEAVE IT TO ME!
PLOOSH
MER--
!
SPLASH

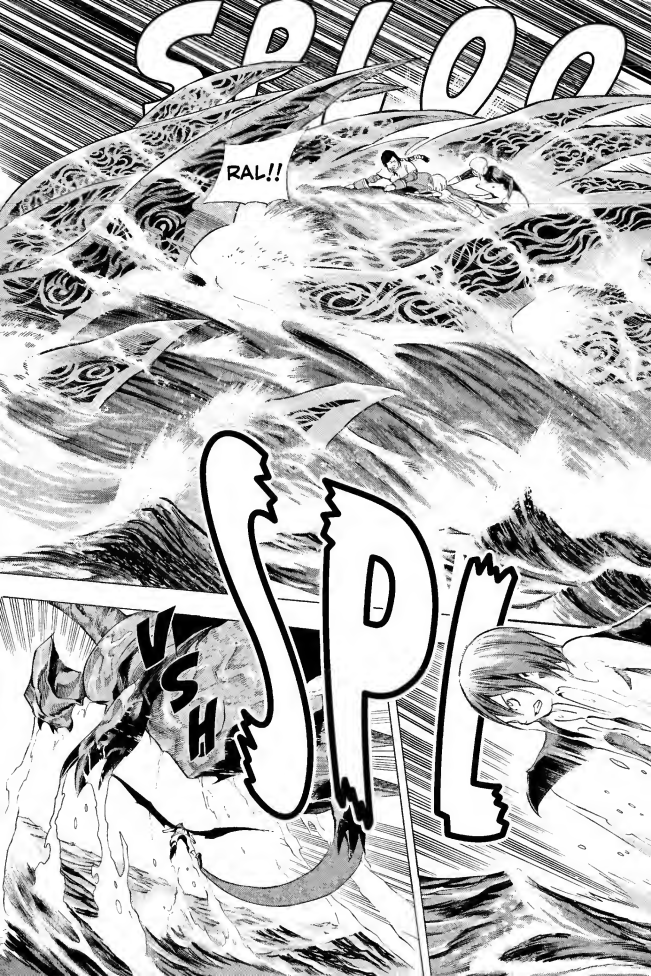

ARE YOU OKAY, SUNSU?
GLUB GLUB
YEAH. HE'S A BIT HEAVY BUT I'LL BE FINE.
MY THANKS...
BOB BOB
WHERE'D THE FISH SHADOWS GO?
WHEN I FIRST SAW THEM, THEY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.
AFTER THEY DESTROYED THE BOAT, THEY SWAM OFF WHERE THE OTHER GROUP HAD GONE.
NO DOUBT THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY TO WARN OPSQURIA.
AT THEIR SPEED, WE'D HAVE TO HAVE GRAD FLY US THE WHOLE WAY TO CATCH UP. AND IN ANY CASE, NUI CAN'T SNIFF THEM OUT IN THE WATER. WE'RE SUNK.
...

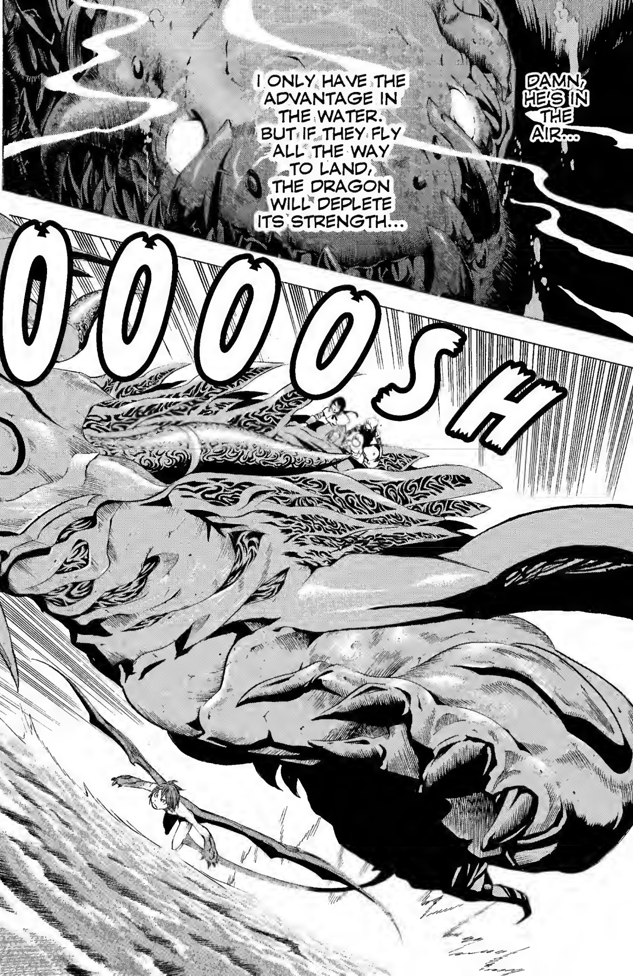

I SEE.
SO YOU SANK THEIR SHIP. WELL DONE. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THEY CAME JUST AS WHITE TIGER SAID THEY WOULD.
THE BLUE DRAGON...
KRIK
KRIK
I ALLOWED THE TIGER TO LAND, SO IF THE DRAGON PASSES AS WELL, LADY BIRA WILL HAVE MY HIDE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I KILL THE DRAGON, I CAN WIN HER FAVOR...
!
RMMMM
WHAT'RE YOU--?!
WOOOOM
AAIEE!
AGHH!

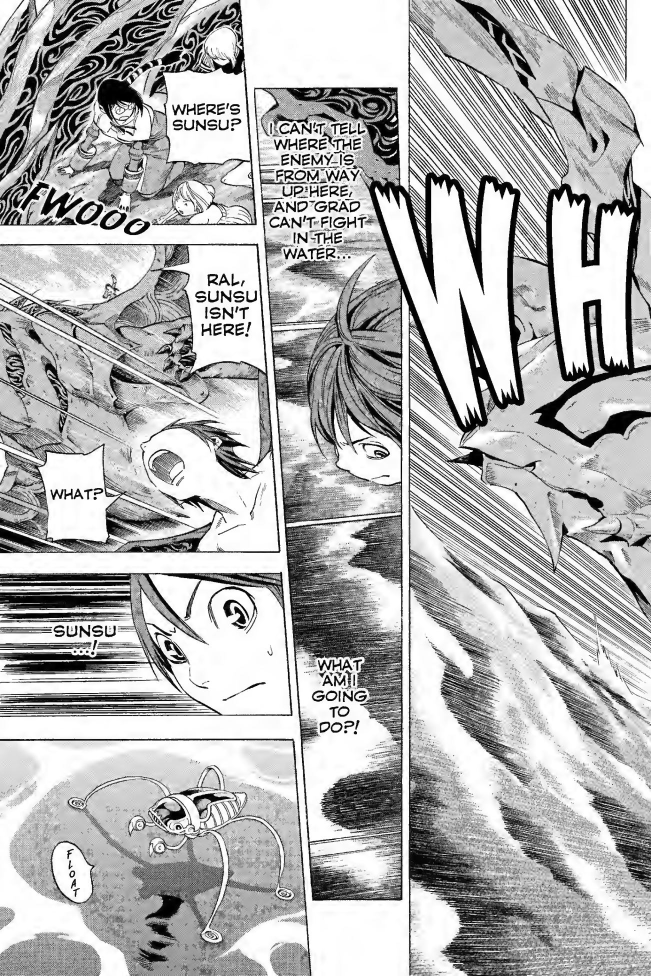
READ THIS WAY


WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IT'S ONLY THE FIRST DAY.
HMM... WE CAN'T FLY IN ORDER TO CONSERVE GRAD'S STRENGTH.
PLISH
PLISH
OH WELL. THEN LET'S JUST SWIM DURING THE DAY AND RIDE ON GRAD AT NIGHT.
WE CAN'T SWIM THAT FAR!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! THERE'S A HUGE SHADOW COMING FROM BELOW!
WHAT ?!
GLUB
DOOOM
WHAT IS THAT...? IT LOOKS LIKE IT ATE EVERYTHING IT COULD IN THE SEA.


GRAD!
RIGHT.
VOOM
PLISH PLISH
CHANGE OF PLANS. EVERYONE GET ON GRAD'S BACK!
HUH?
VWOOM
!!
OSH
ASH

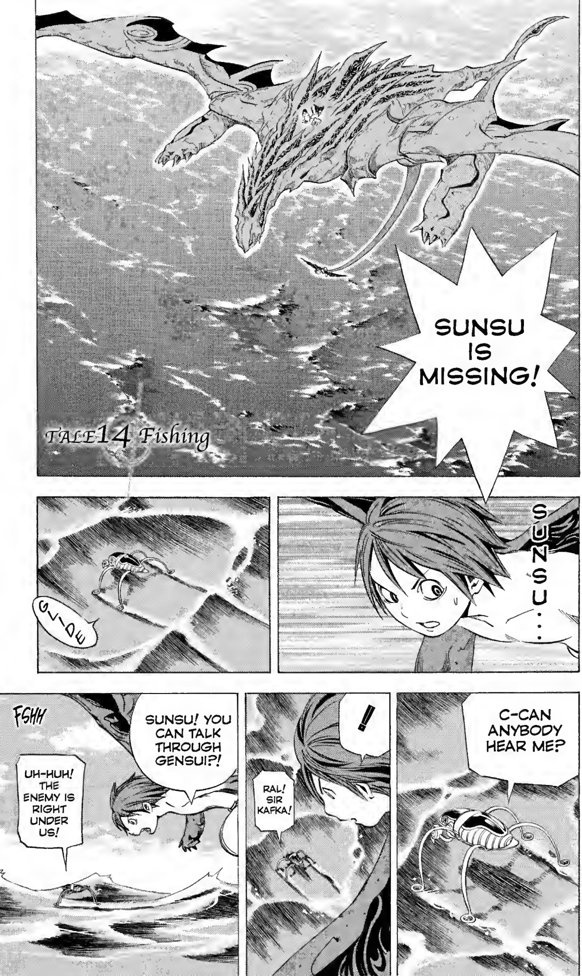

SPLOO
RAL!!
SPL
VSH

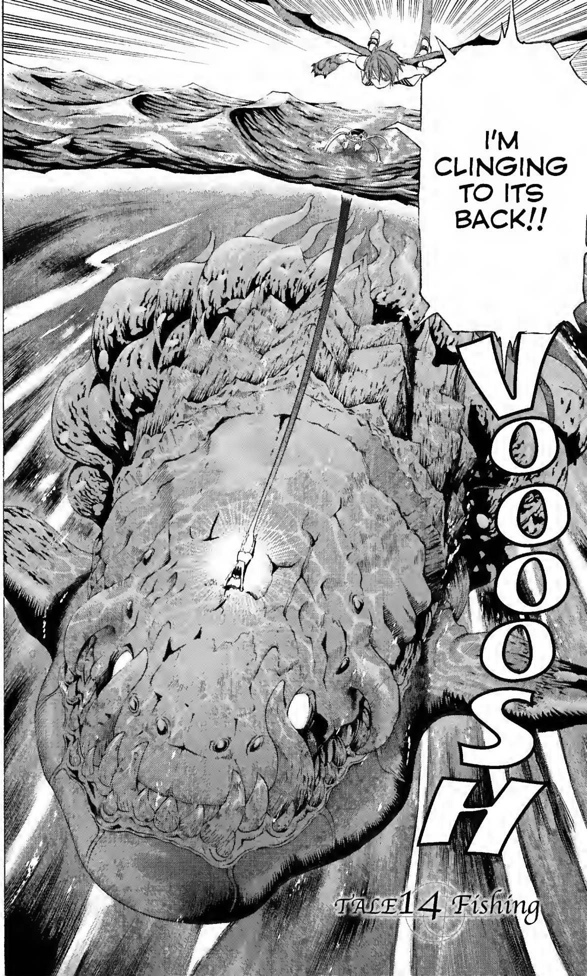

DAMN, HE'S IN THE AIR...
I ONLY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN THE WATER. BUT IF THEY FLY ALL THE WAY TO LAND, THE DRAGON WILL DEPLETE ITS STRENGTH...
OOOOSH


WH
I CAN'T TELL WHERE THE ENEMY IS FROM WAY UP HERE, AND GRAD CAN'T FIGHT IN THE WATER...
WHERE'S SUNSU?
FWOOO
RAL, SUNSU ISN'T HERE!
WHAT?
SUNSU ...!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
FLOAT

Ral Ω Grad

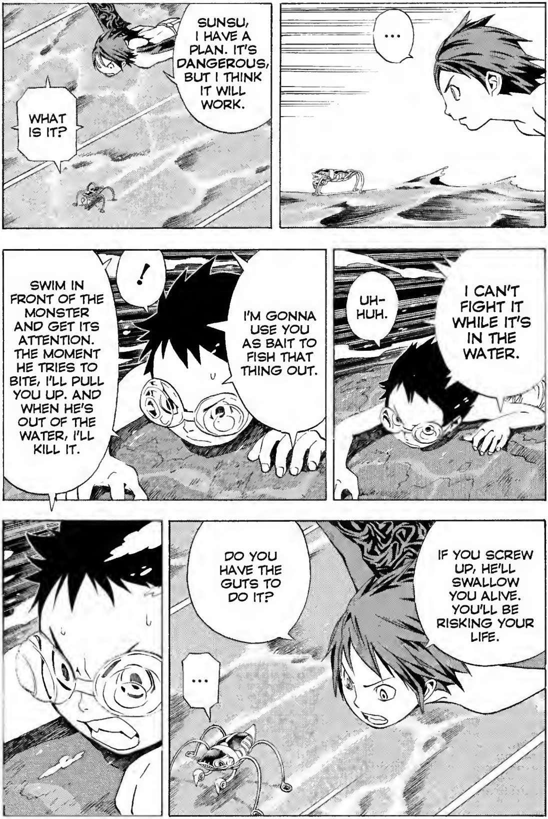
TALE 14 Fishing

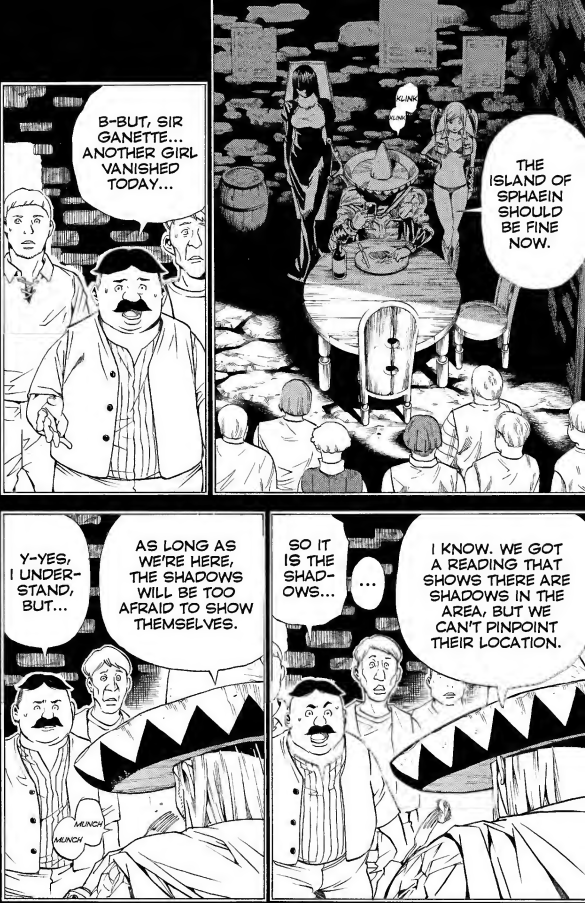

SUNSU IS MISSING!
SUNSU...
GU-DE
C-CAN ANYBODY HEAR ME?
!
RAL! SIR KAFKA!
FSHH
SUNSU! YOU CAN TALK THROUGH GENSUI?!
UH-HUH! THE ENEMY IS RIGHT UNDER US!

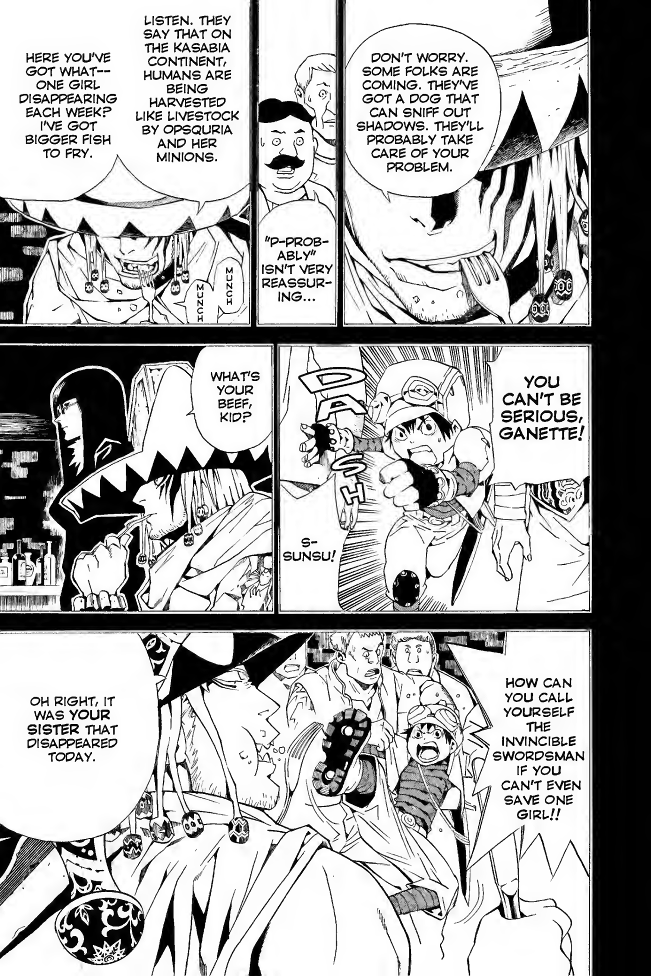

I'M CLINGING TO ITS BACK!!
VOOOOSH

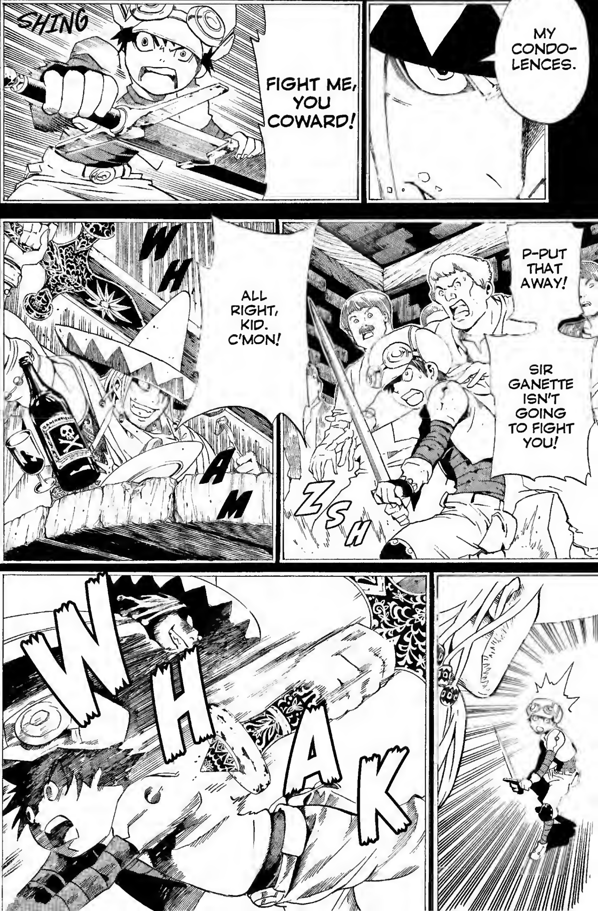
TALE 14 Fishing

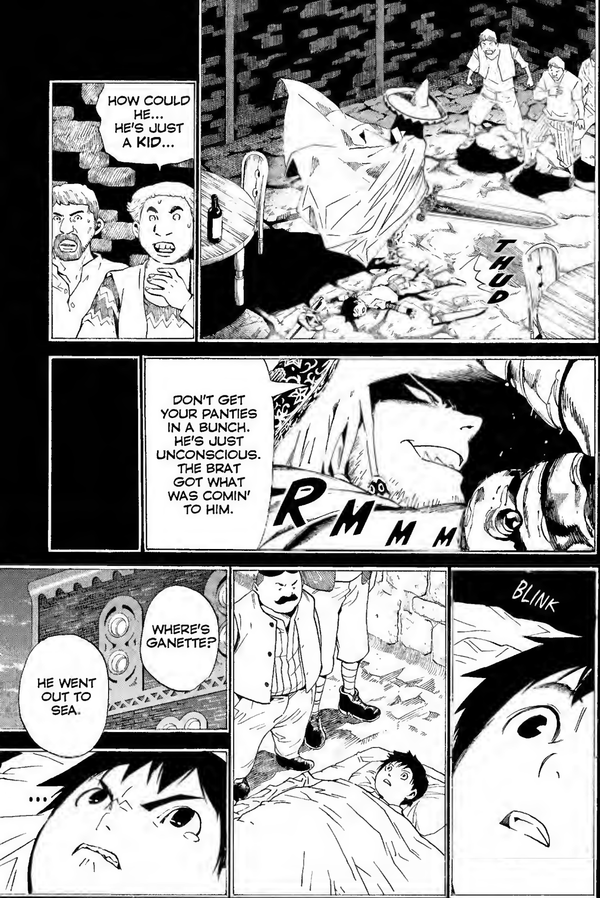
READ THIS WAY

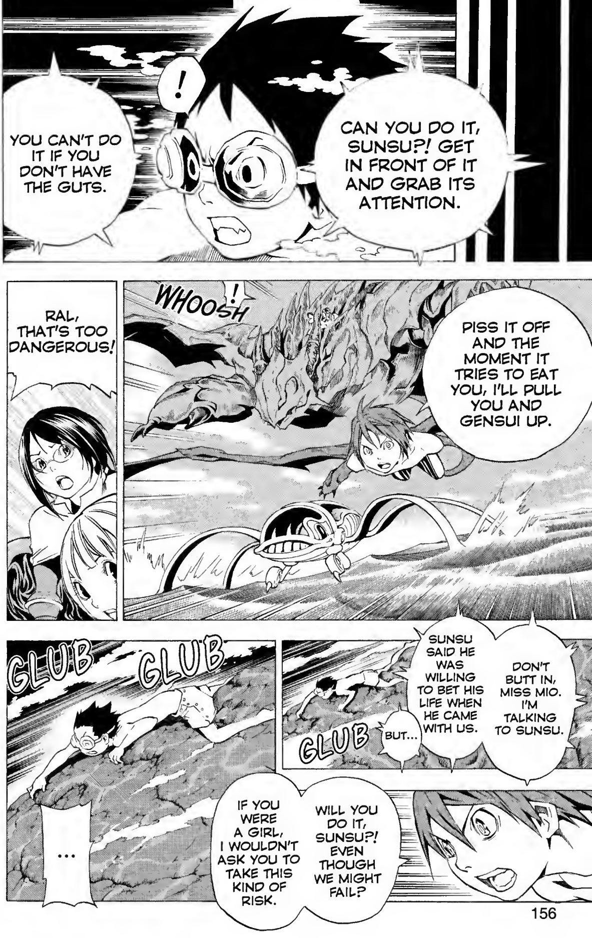

…
SUNSU, I HAVE A PLAN. IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT I THINK IT WILL WORK.
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T FIGHT IT WHILE IT'S IN THE WATER.
UH-HUH.
I'M GONNA USE YOU AS BAIT TO FISH THAT THING OUT.
!
SWIM IN FRONT OF THE MONSTER AND GET ITS ATTENTION. THE MOMENT HE TRIES TO BITE, I'LL PULL YOU UP. AND WHEN HE'S OUT OF THE WATER, I'LL KILL IT.
IF YOU SCREW UP, HE'LL SWALLOW YOU ALIVE. YOU'LL BE RISKING YOUR LIFE.
DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT?
…


KLINK
KLINK
THE ISLAND OF SPHAEIN SHOULD BE FINE NOW.
B-BUT, SIR GANETTE... ANOTHER GIRL VANISHED TODAY...
I KNOW. WE GOT A READING THAT SHOWS THERE ARE SHADOWS IN THE AREA, BUT WE CAN'T PINPOINT THEIR LOCATION.
...
SO IT IS THE SHADOWS...
AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, THE SHADOWS WILL BE TOO AFRAID TO SHOW THEMSELVES.
Y-YES, I UNDERSTAND, BUT...
MUNCH
MUNCH

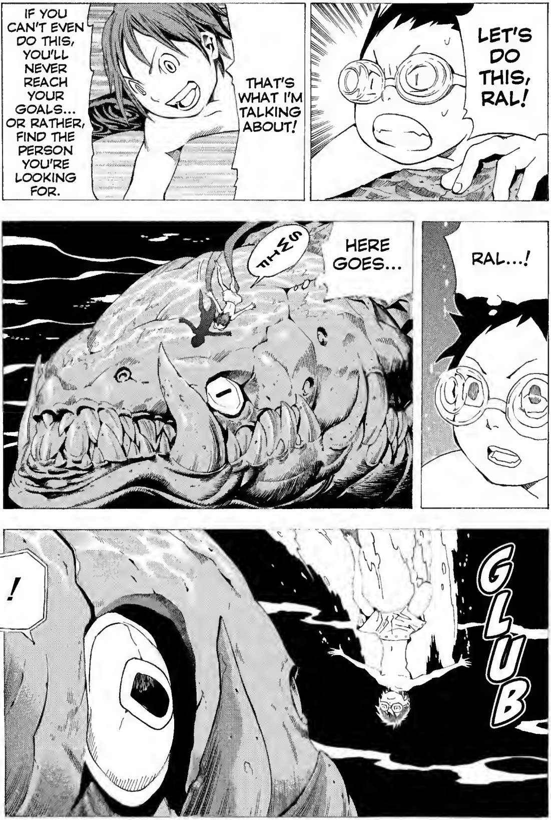

DON'T WORRY. SOME FOLKS ARE COMING. THEY'VE GOT A DOG THAT CAN SNIFF OUT SHADOWS. THEY'LL PROBABLY TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROBLEM.
"P-PROBABLY" ISN'T VERY REASSURING...
LISTEN. THEY SAY THAT ON THE KASABIA CONTINENT, HUMANS ARE BEING HARVESTED LIKE LIVESTOCK BY OPSQURIA AND HER MINIONS.
HERE YOU'VE GOT WHAT-- ONE GIRL DISAPPEARING EACH WEEK? I'VE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.
MUNCH
MUNCH
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, GANETTE!
DASH
S-SUNSU!
WHAT'S YOUR BEEF, KID?
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF THE INVINCIBLE SWORDSMAN IF YOU CAN'T EVEN SAVE ONE GIRL!!
OH RIGHT, IT WAS YOUR SISTER THAT DISAPPEARED TODAY.

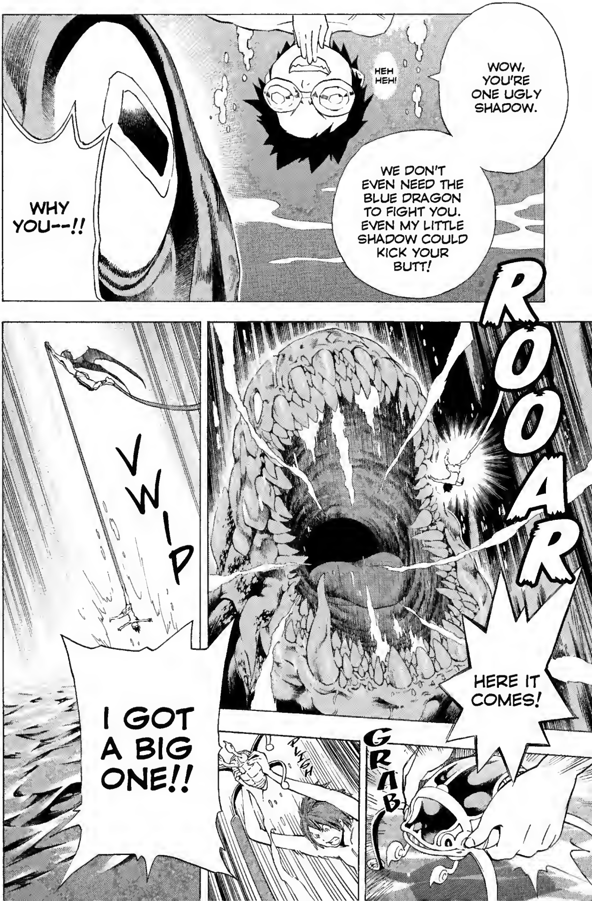

SHING
FIGHT ME, YOU COWARD!
MY CONDOLENCES.
WHAM
ALL RIGHT, KID. C'MON!
ZSH
P-PUT THAT AWAY!
SIR GANETTE ISN'T GOING TO FIGHT YOU!
WHAK

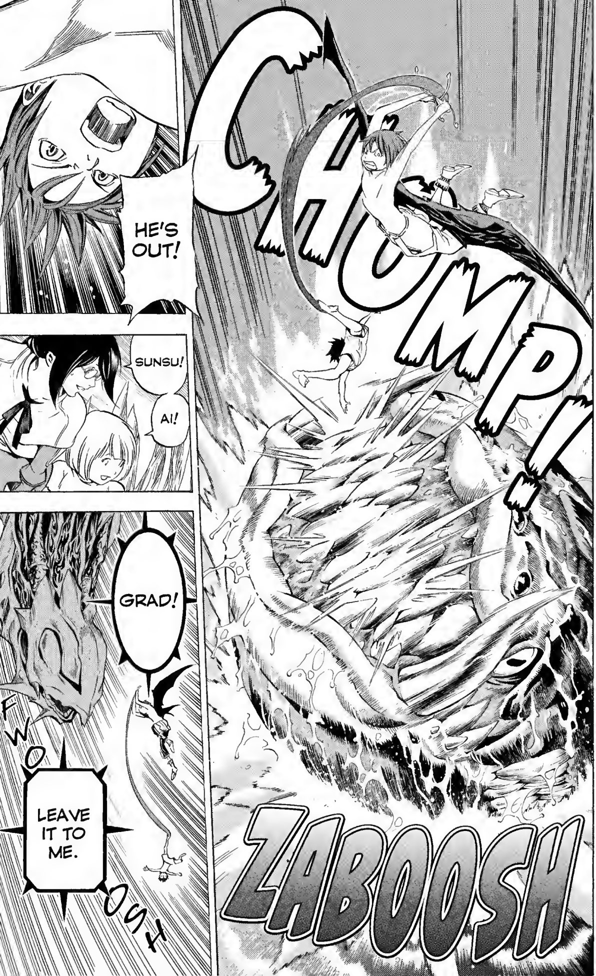

THUD
HOW COULD HE... HE'S JUST A KID...
RMMM
DON'T GET YOUR PANTIES IN A BUNCH. HE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS. THE BRAT GOT WHAT WAS COMIN' TO HIM.
BLINK
WHERE'S GANETTE?
HE WENT OUT TO SEA.
...

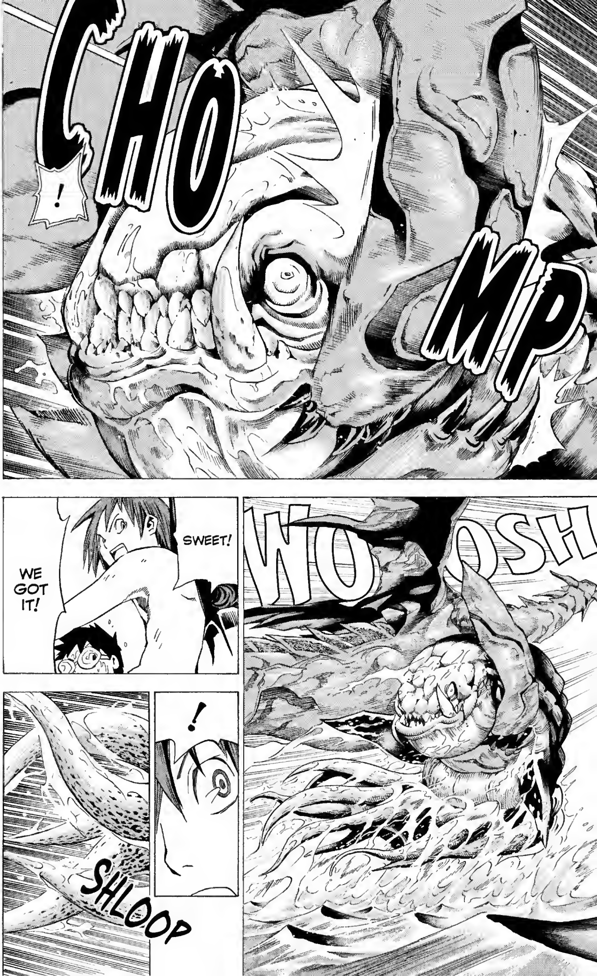

!
CAN YOU DO IT, SUNSU?! GET IN FRONT OF IT AND GRAB ITS ATTENTION.
YOU CAN'T DO IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS.
PISS IT OFF AND THE MOMENT IT TRIES TO EAT YOU, I'LL PULL YOU AND GENSUI UP.
!
WHOOSH
RAL, THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
DON'T BUTT IN, MISS MIO. I'M TALKING TO SUNSU.
SUNSU SAID HE WAS WILLING TO BET HIS LIFE WHEN HE CAME WITH US.
BUT...
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
WILL YOU DO IT, SUNSU?! EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT FAIL?
IF YOU WERE A GIRL, I WOULDN'T ASK YOU TO TAKE THIS KIND OF RISK.
...

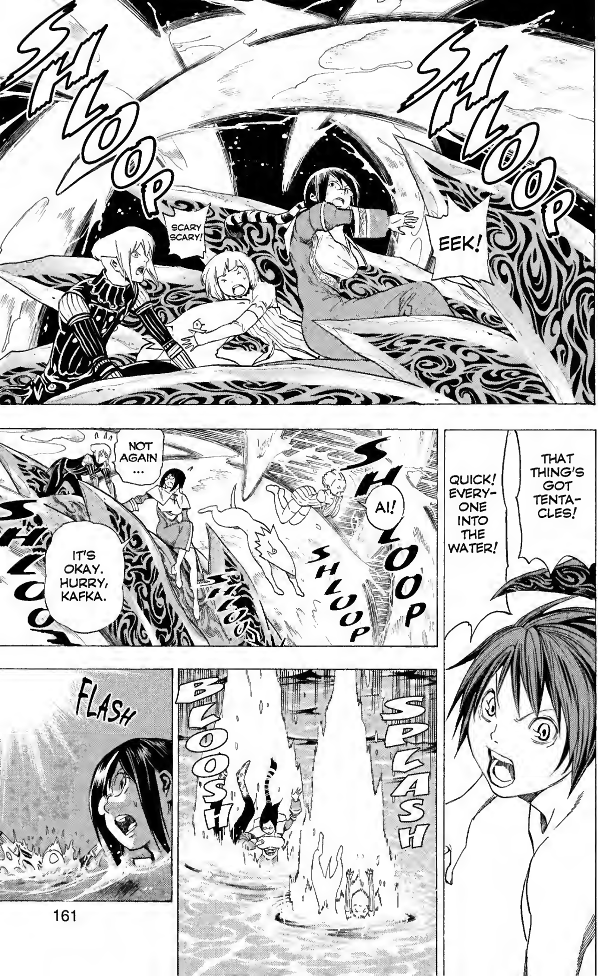
READ THIS WAY

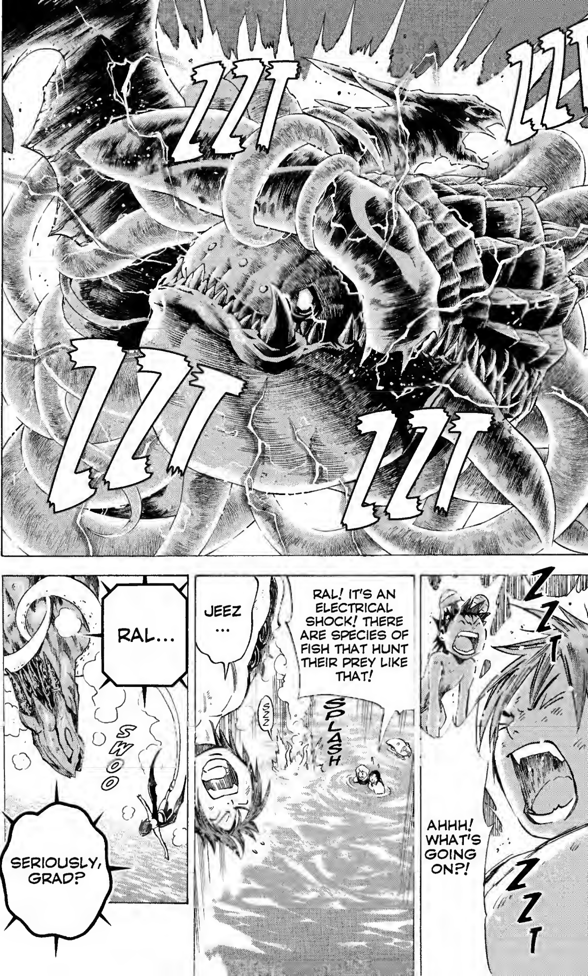

LET'S DO THIS, RAL!
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THIS, YOU'LL NEVER REACH YOUR GOALS... OR RATHER, FIND THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
RAL...!
HERE GOES...
FHWS
GLUB
!

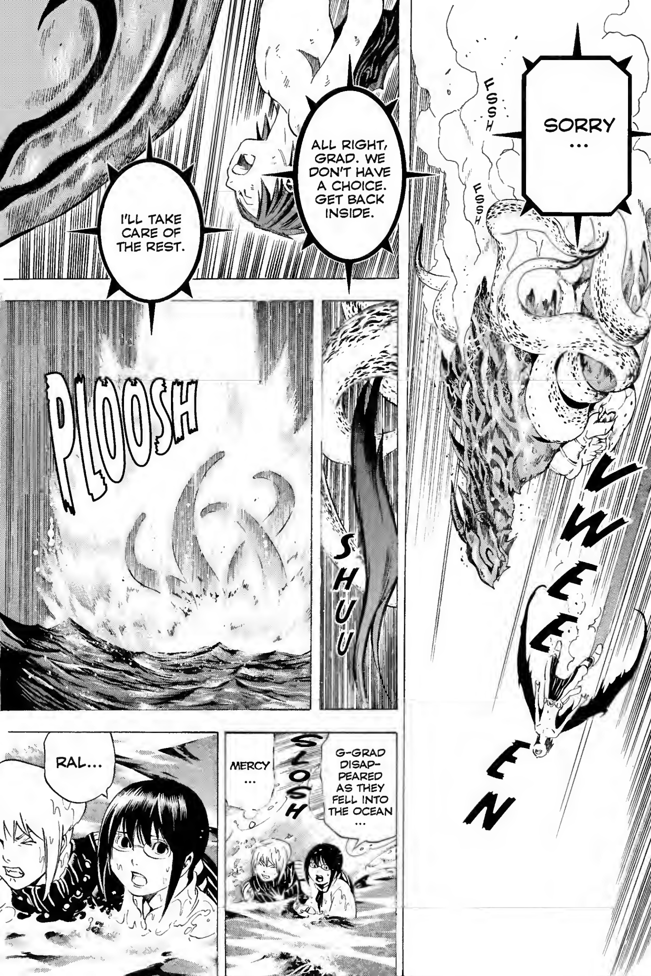

WOW, YOU'RE ONE UGLY SHADOW.
HEH HEH!
WE DON'T EVEN NEED THE BLUE DRAGON TO FIGHT YOU. EVEN MY LITTLE SHADOW COULD KICK YOUR BUTT!
WHY YOU--!!
ROOOAR
HERE IT COMES!
GRAB
RUSH
VWIP
I GOT A BIG ONE!!

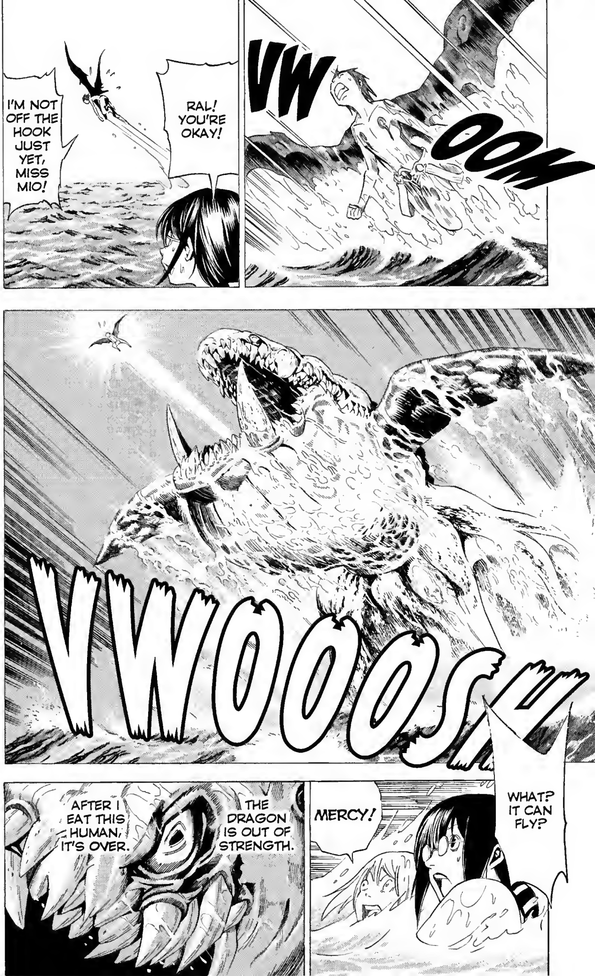

CHOMP!!
ZABOOSH
HE'S OUT!
SUNSU!
AI!
GRAD!
FWOOSH
LEAVE IT TO ME.

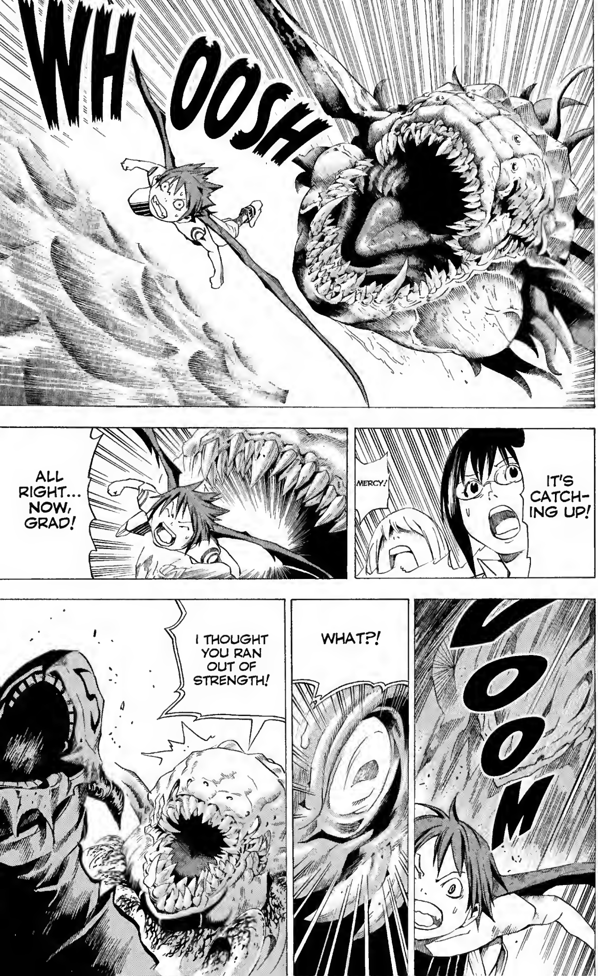

CHO
MP
!
WO OSH
SWEET!
WE GOT IT!
!
SHLOOP

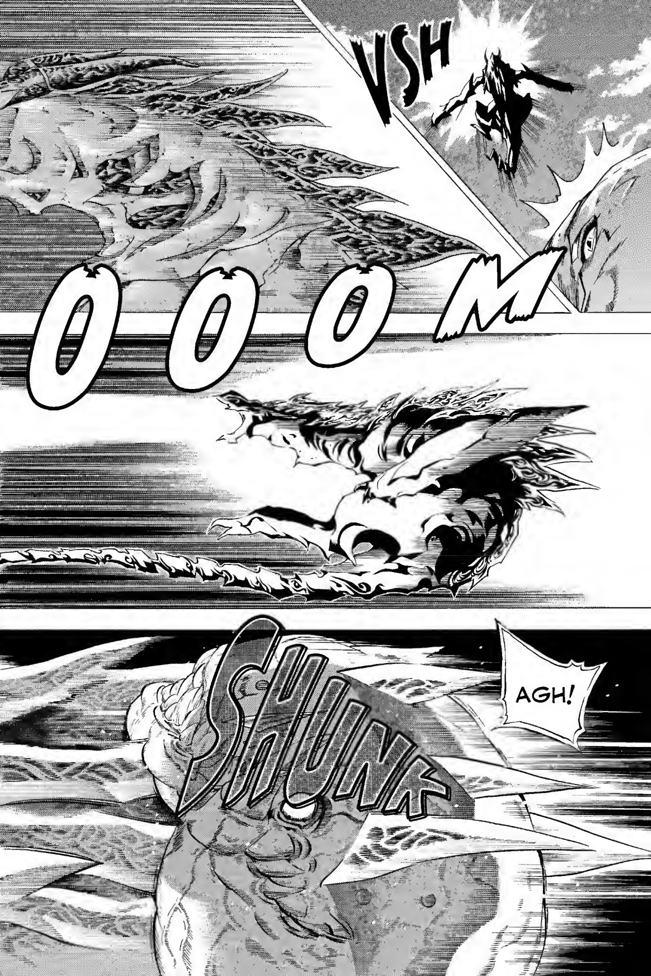

SHLOOP
EEK!
SCARY SCARY!
SHLOOP
THAT THING'S GOT TENTACLES!
QUICK! EVERYONE INTO THE WATER!
SHLOOP
AI!
SHLOOP
SHLOOP
NOT AGAIN ...
IT'S OKAY. HURRY, KAFKA.
SHLOO
SPLASH
BLOOSH
FLASH

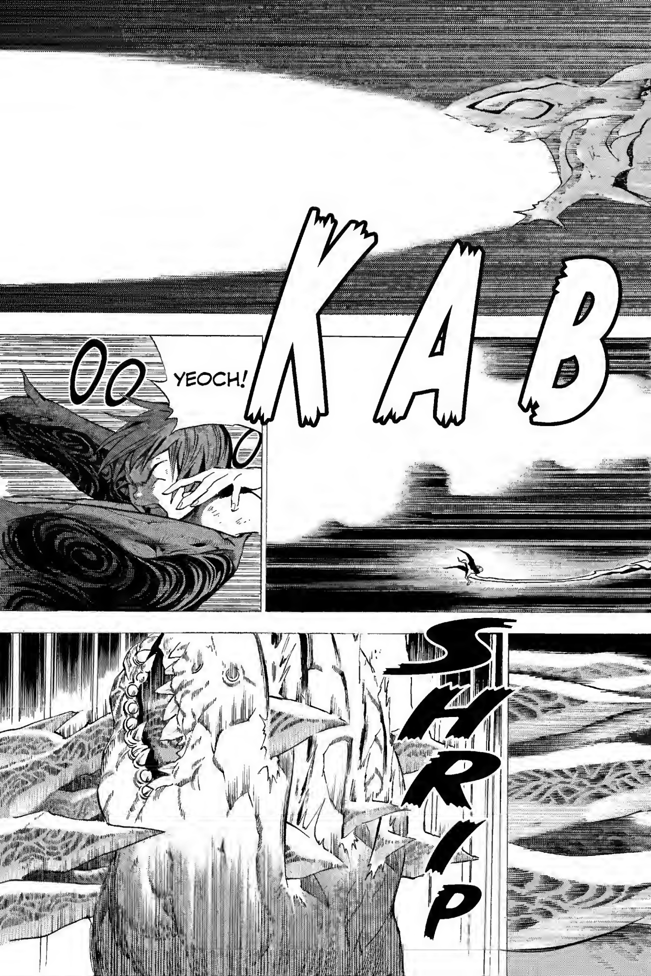

ZZZT
ZZZT
ZZZT
ZZT
AHHH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ZZT
RAL! IT'S AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK! THERE ARE SPECIES OF FISH THAT HUNT THEIR PREY LIKE THAT!
SPLASH
JEEZ ...
SZZ
RAL...
SWOO
SERIOUSLY, GRAD?

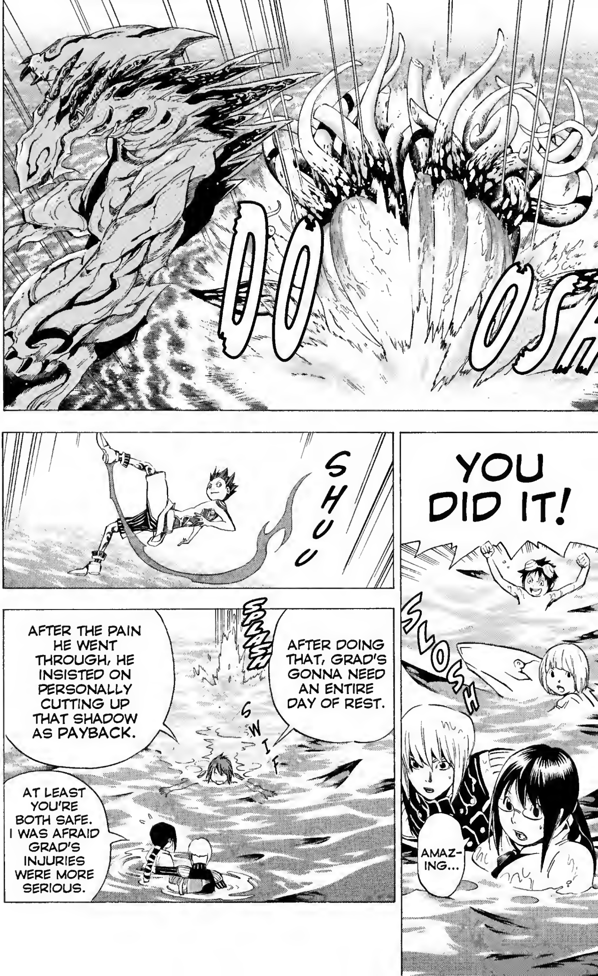

SORRY ...
FSSH
FSSH
VWEEEN
ALL RIGHT, GRAD. WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. GET BACK INSIDE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
SHUU
PLOOSH
G-GRAD DISAPPEARED AS THEY FELL INTO THE OCEAN ...
SLOSH
MERCY ...
RAL...

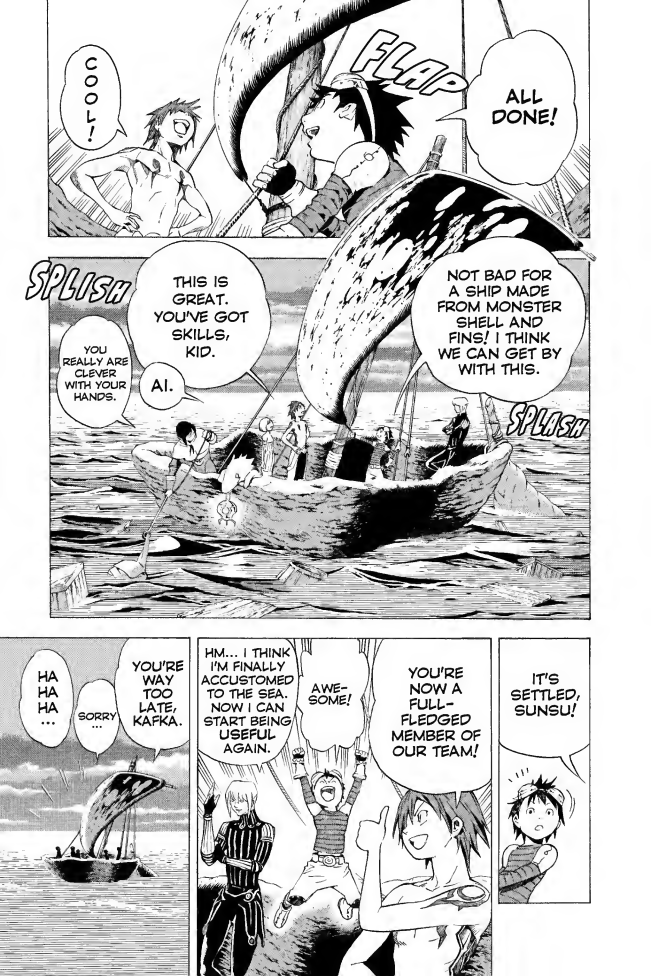

VW
OOM
RAL! YOU'RE OKAY!
I'M NOT OFF THE HOOK JUST YET, MISS MIO!
VWOOOSH
WHAT? IT CAN FLY?
MERCY!
THE DRAGON IS OUT OF STRENGTH.
AFTER I EAT THIS HUMAN, IT'S OVER.


WHOOSH
IT'S CATCHING UP!
MERCY!
ALL RIGHT... NOW, GRAD!
OOOM
WHAT?!
I THOUGHT YOU RAN OUT OF STRENGTH!

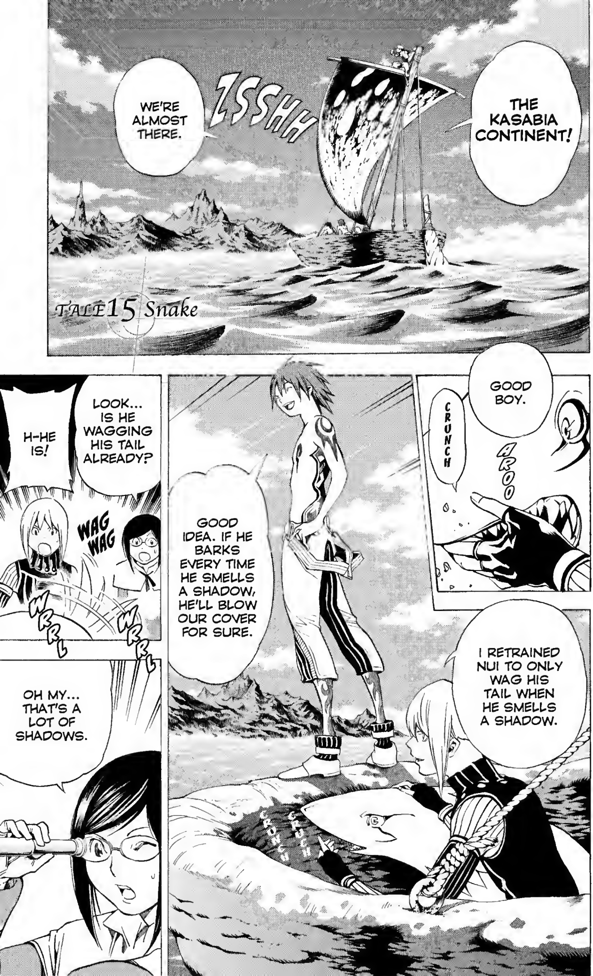

VSH
OOOM
SHUNK
AGH!


KAB
YEOCH!
OO
O
SHRIP


DOOSH
YOU DID IT!
SWOOSH
AMAZING...
SHUUU
SPLASH
AFTER DOING THAT, GRAD'S GONNA NEED AN ENTIRE DAY OF REST.
AFTER THE PAIN HE WENT THROUGH, HE INSISTED ON PERSONALLY CUTTING UP THAT SHADOW AS PAYBACK.
SWIF
AT LEAST YOU'RE BOTH SAFE. I WAS AFRAID GRAD'S INJURIES WERE MORE SERIOUS.


FLAP
ALL DONE!
COOL!
SPLISH
NOT BAD FOR A SHIP MADE FROM MONSTER SHELL AND FINS! I THINK WE CAN GET BY WITH THIS.
THIS IS GREAT. YOU'VE GOT SKILLS, KID.
AI.
YOU REALLY ARE CLEVER WITH YOUR HANDS.
SPLASH
IT'S SETTLED, SUNSU!
YOU'RE NOW A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF OUR TEAM!
AWESOME!
HM... I THINK I'M FINALLY ACCUSTOMED TO THE SEA. NOW I CAN START BEING USEFUL AGAIN.
YOU'RE WAY TOO LATE, KAFKA.
SORRY...
HA HA HA...

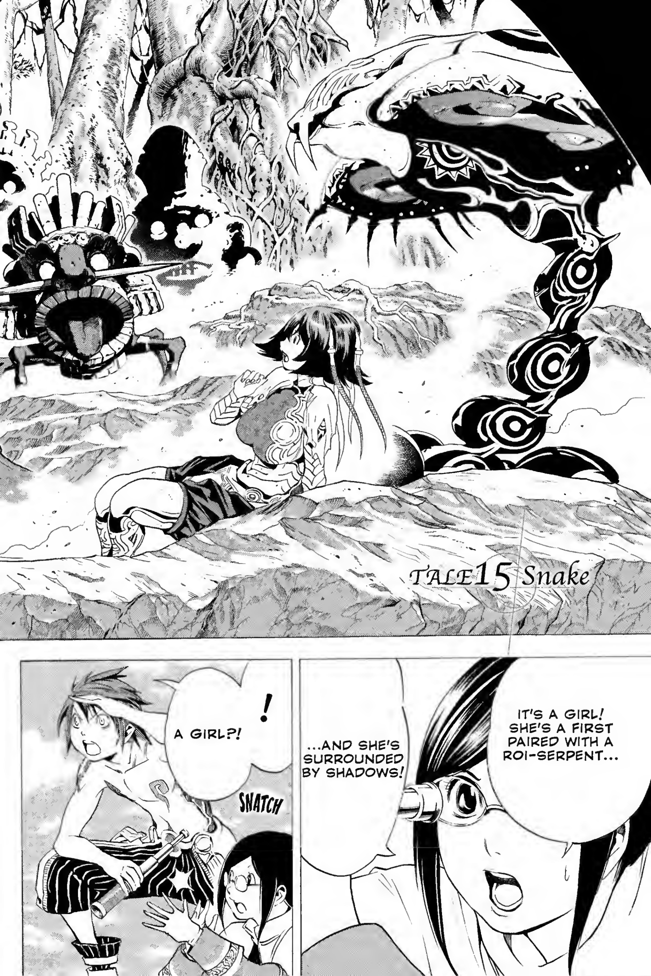
Ral Ω Grad

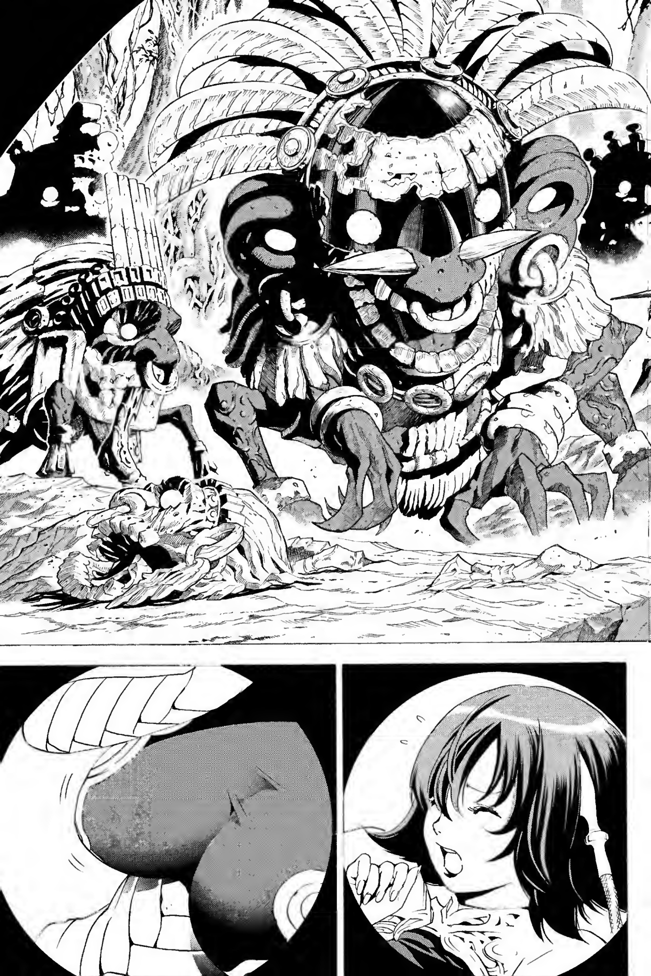


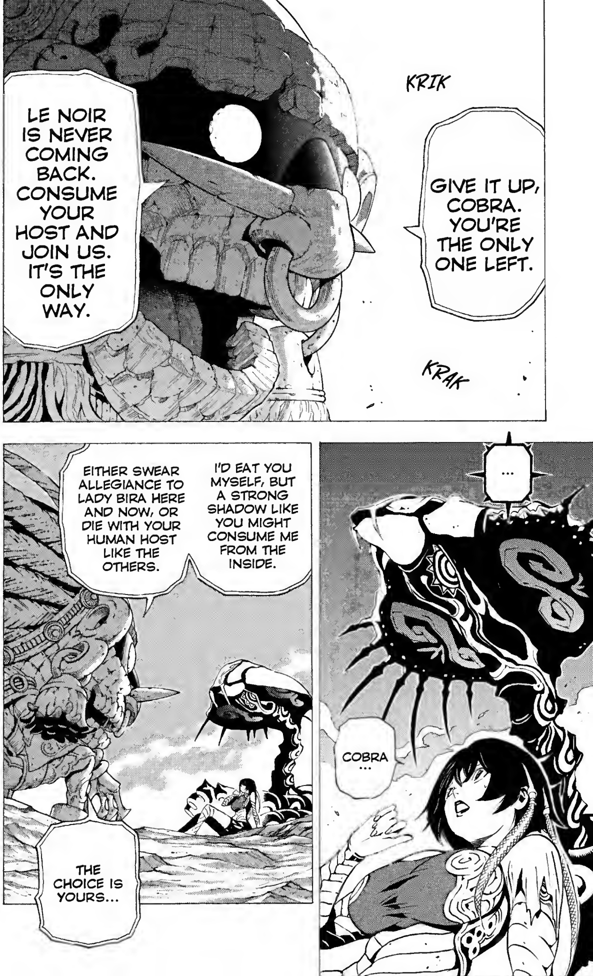
TALE 15 Snake

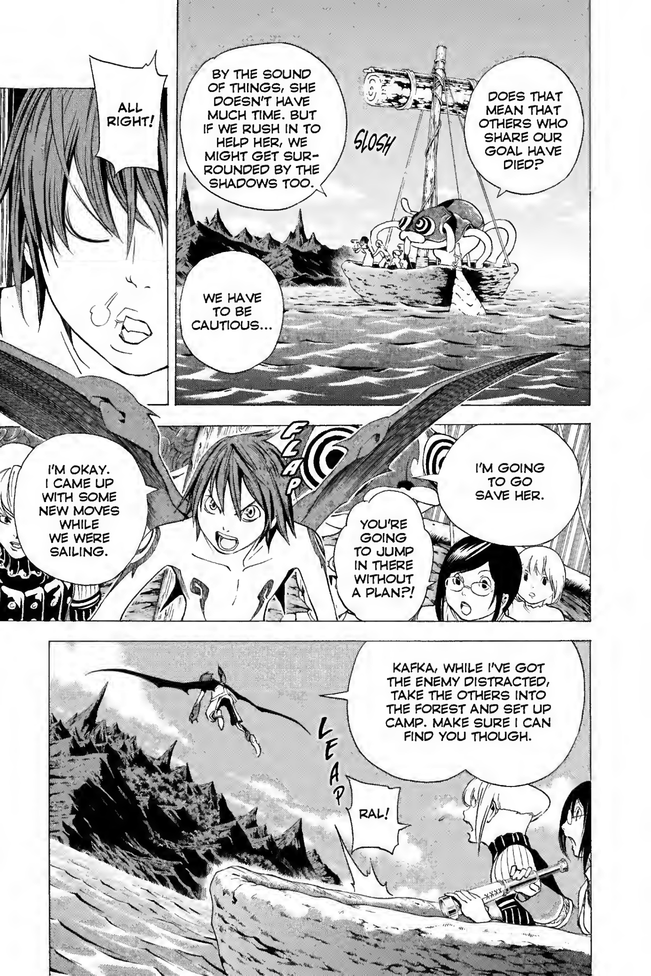
THE KASABIA CONTINENT!
ZSSHH
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
GOOD BOY.
CRUNCH
AROO
I RETRAINED NUI TO ONLY WAG HIS TAIL WHEN HE SMELLS A SHADOW.
GOOD IDEA. IF HE BARKS EVERY TIME HE SMELLS A SHADOW, HE'LL BLOW OUR COVER FOR SURE.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
LOOK... IS HE WAGGING HIS TAIL ALREADY?
H-HE IS!
WAG WAG
WRRL
WRRL
OH MY... THAT'S A LOT OF SHADOWS.

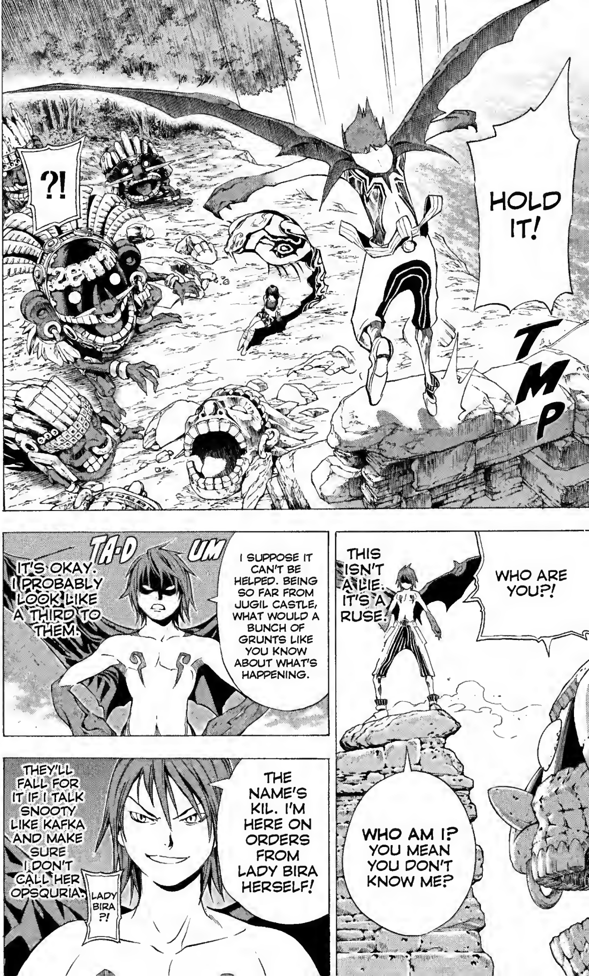
TALE 15 Snake

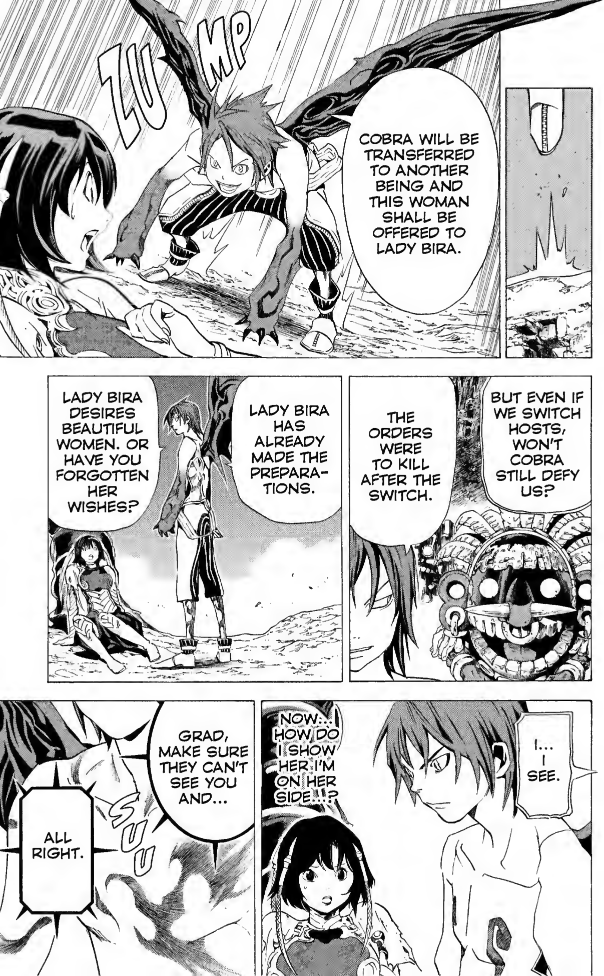

IT'S A GIRL! SHE'S A FIRST PAIRED WITH A ROI-SERPENT...
...AND SHE'S SURROUNDED BY SHADOWS!
!
A GIRL?!
SNATCH

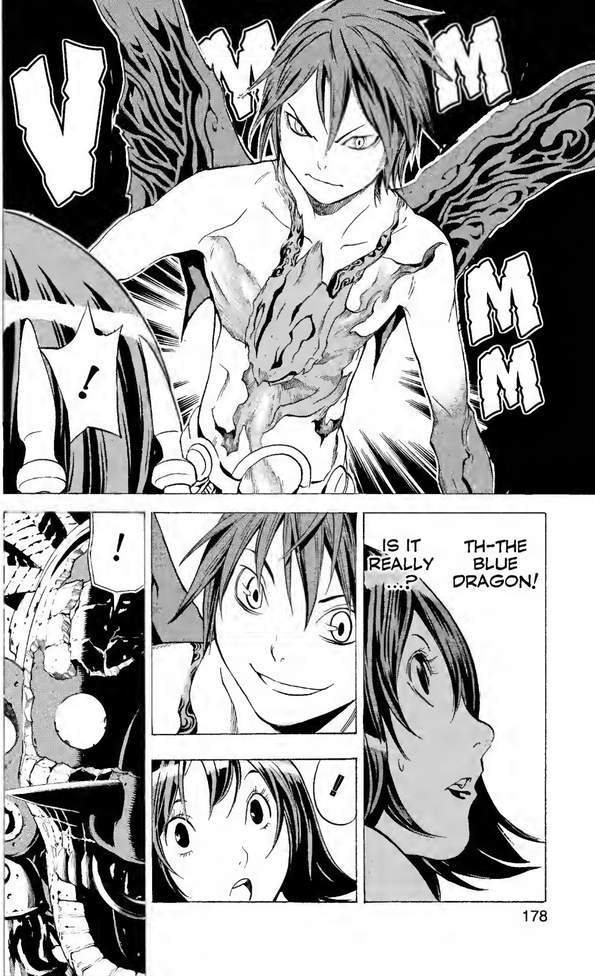


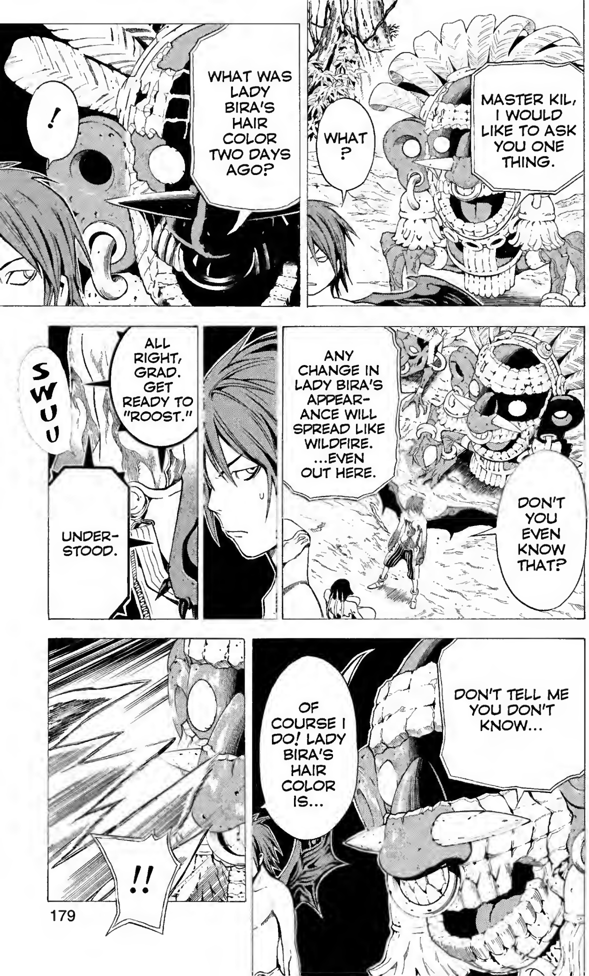

KRIK
GIVE IT UP, COBRA. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
LE NOIR IS NEVER COMING BACK. CONSUME YOUR HOST AND JOIN US. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
KRAK
...
COBRA ...
I'D EAT YOU MYSELF, BUT A STRONG SHADOW LIKE YOU MIGHT CONSUME ME FROM THE INSIDE.
EITHER SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO LADY BIRA HERE AND NOW, OR DIE WITH YOUR HUMAN HOST LIKE THE OTHERS.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS...

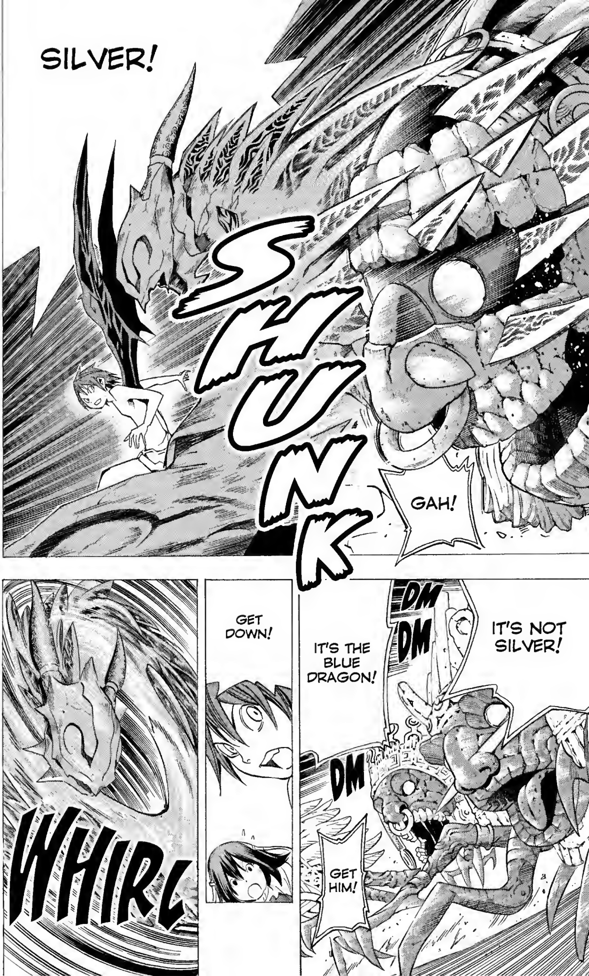

DOES THAT MEAN THAT OTHERS WHO SHARE OUR GOAL HAVE DIED?
SLOSH
BY THE SOUND OF THINGS, SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME. BUT IF WE RUSH IN TO HELP HER, WE MIGHT GET SURROUNDED BY THE SHADOWS TOO.
WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS...
ALL RIGHT!
I'M GOING TO GO SAVE HER.
YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP IN THERE WITHOUT A PLAN?!
FLAP
I'M OKAY. I CAME UP WITH SOME NEW MOVES WHILE WE WERE SAILING.
KAFKA, WHILE I'VE GOT THE ENEMY DISTRACTED, TAKE THE OTHERS INTO THE FOREST AND SET UP CAMP. MAKE SURE I CAN FIND YOU THOUGH.
LEAP
RAL!

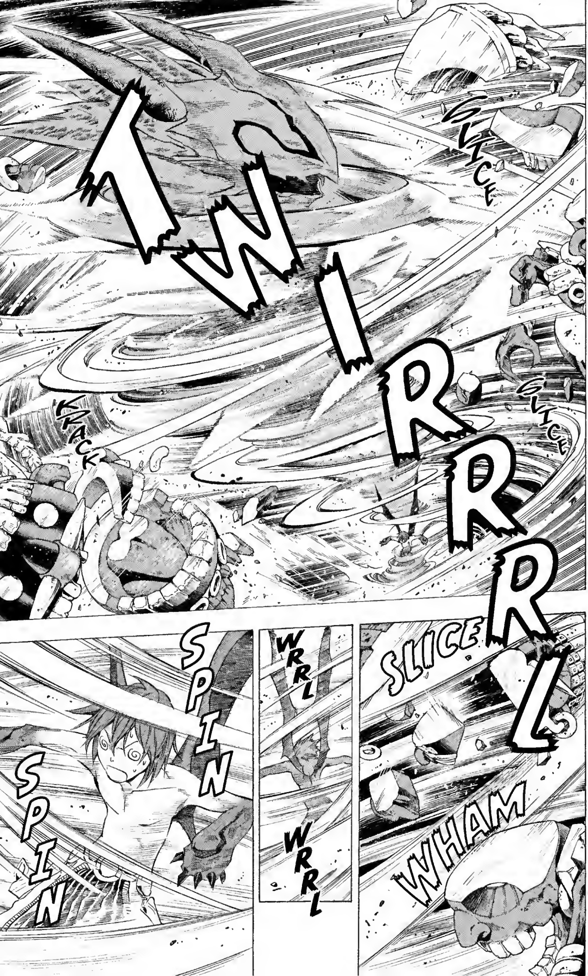

HOLD IT!
TMP
?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
THIS ISN'T A LIE. IT'S A RUSE.
WHO AM I? YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW ME?
TA-DUM
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED. BEING SO FAR FROM JUGIL CASTLE, WHAT WOULD A BUNCH OF GRUNTS LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING.
IT'S OKAY. I PROBABLY LOOK LIKE A THIRD TO THEM.
THE NAME'S KIL. I'M HERE ON ORDERS FROM LADY BIRA HERSELF!
THEY'LL FALL FOR IT IF I TALK SNOOTY LIKE KAFKA AND MAKE SURE I DON'T CALL HER OPSQURIA.
LADY BIRA?!

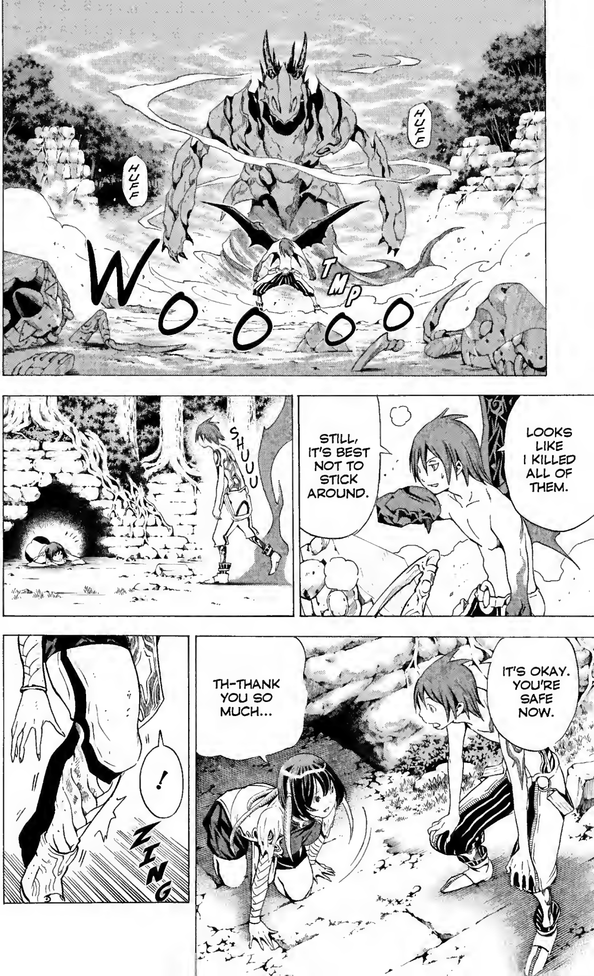

ZUMP
COBRA WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER BEING AND THIS WOMAN SHALL BE OFFERED TO LADY BIRA.
BUT EVEN IF WE SWITCH HOSTS, WON'T COBRA STILL DEFY US?
THE ORDERS WERE TO KILL AFTER THE SWITCH.
LADY BIRA HAS ALREADY MADE THE PREPARATIONS.
LADY BIRA DESIRES BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HER WISHES?
I... I SEE.
NOW... HOW DO I SHOW HER I'M ON HER SIDE...?
GRAD, MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T SEE YOU AND...
SUU
ALL RIGHT.

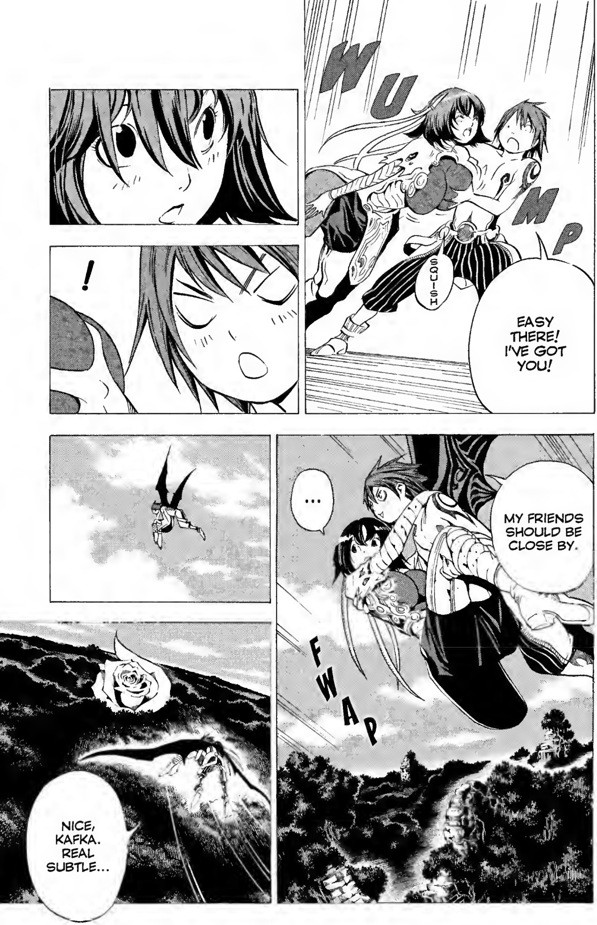

VMMMMM
!
TH-THE BLUE DRAGON!
IS IT REALLY ...?
!
!

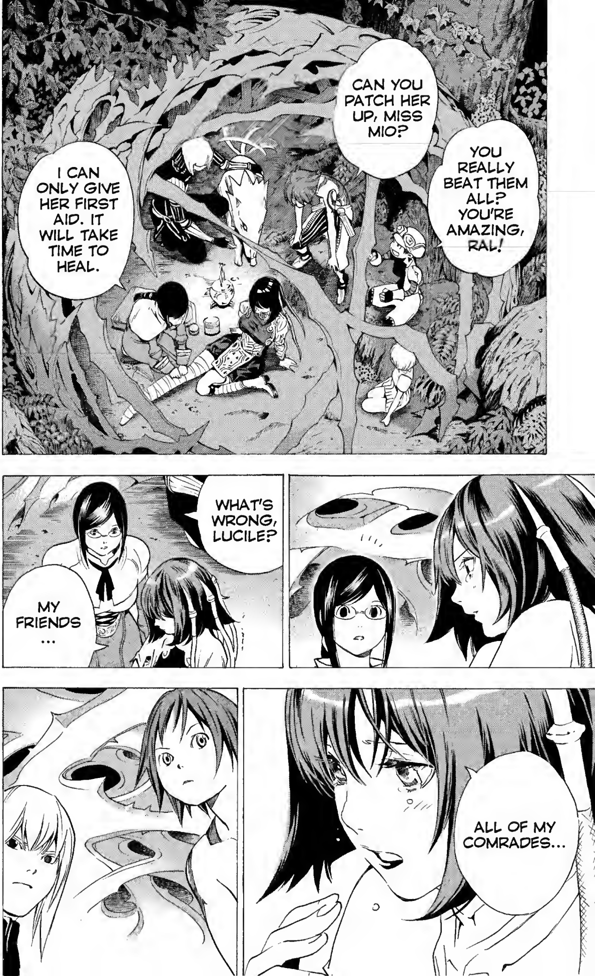

MASTER KIL, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ONE THING.
WHAT?
WHAT WAS LADY BIRA'S HAIR COLOR TWO DAYS AGO?
!
ANY CHANGE IN LADY BIRA'S APPEARANCE WILL SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. ...EVEN OUT HERE.
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW THAT?
ALL RIGHT, GRAD. GET READY TO "ROOST."
SWUU
UNDERSTOOD.
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW...
OF COURSE I DO! LADY BIRA'S HAIR COLOR IS...
!!

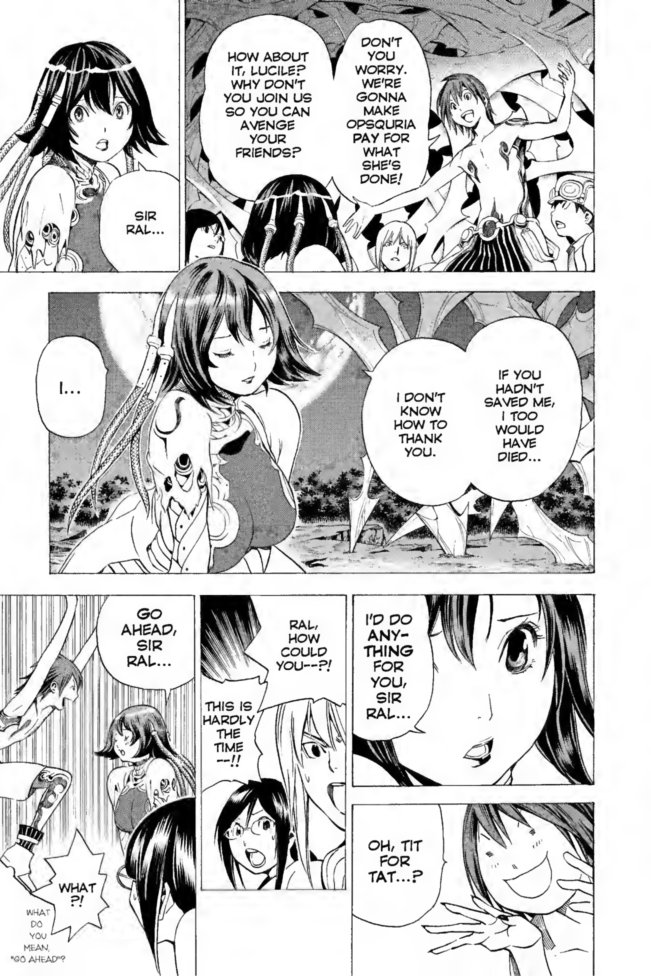

SILVER!
SHUNK
GAH!
IT'S NOT SILVER!
IT'S THE BLUE DRAGON!
DM
DM
DM
GET HIM!
GET DOWN!
WHIRL

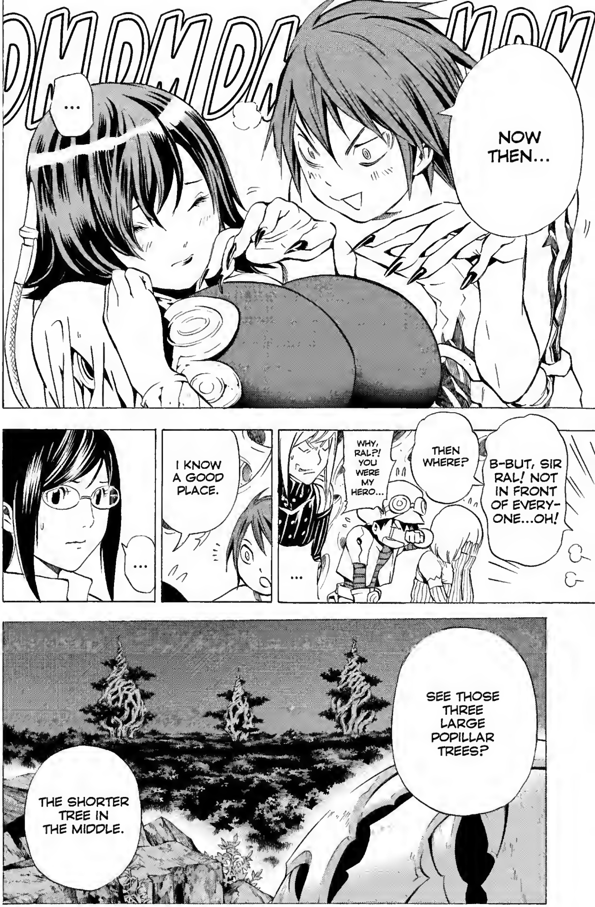

TWIRRRL
SLICE
SLICE
KRACK
SLICE
WHAM
WRRL
WRRL
SPIN
SPIN

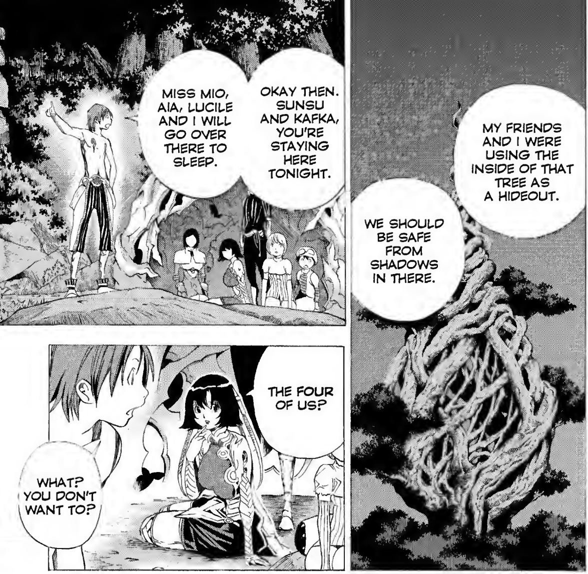

HUFF
HUFF
WOOOOO
TMP
LOOKS LIKE I KILLED ALL OF THEM.
STILL, IT'S BEST NOT TO STICK AROUND.
SHUUU
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH...
!
ZING

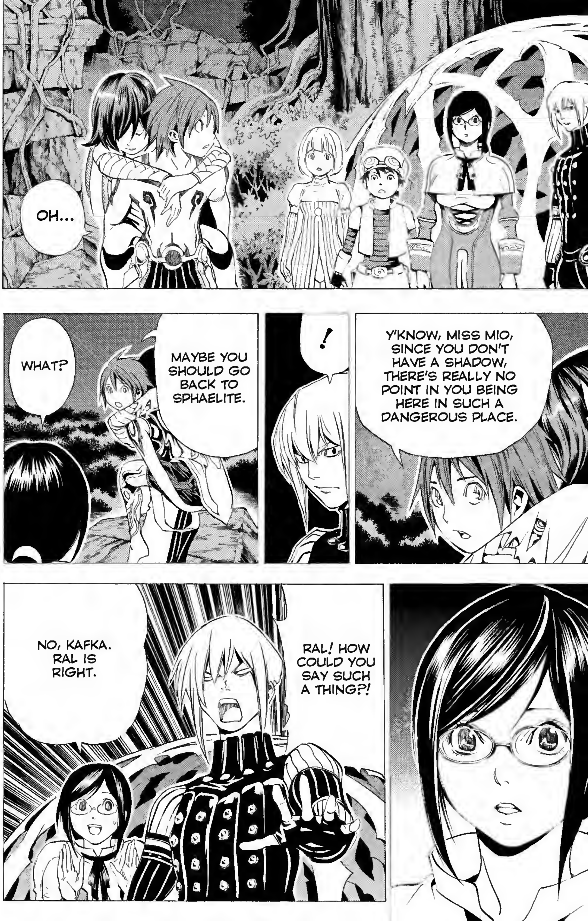

WUMP
SQUISH
EASY THERE! I'VE GOT YOU!
!
MY FRIENDS SHOULD BE CLOSE BY.
...
FWAP
NICE, KAFKA. REAL SUBTLE...

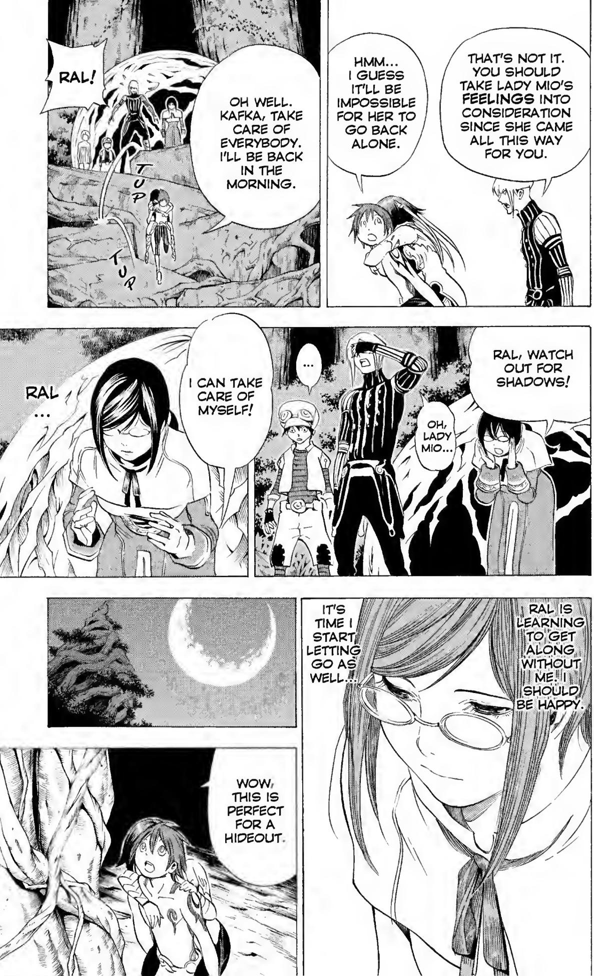

CAN YOU PATCH HER UP, MISS MIO?
YOU REALLY BEAT THEM ALL? YOU'RE AMAZING, RAL!
I CAN ONLY GIVE HER FIRST AID. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO HEAL.
WHAT'S WRONG, LUCILE?
MY FRIENDS ...
ALL OF MY COMRADES...

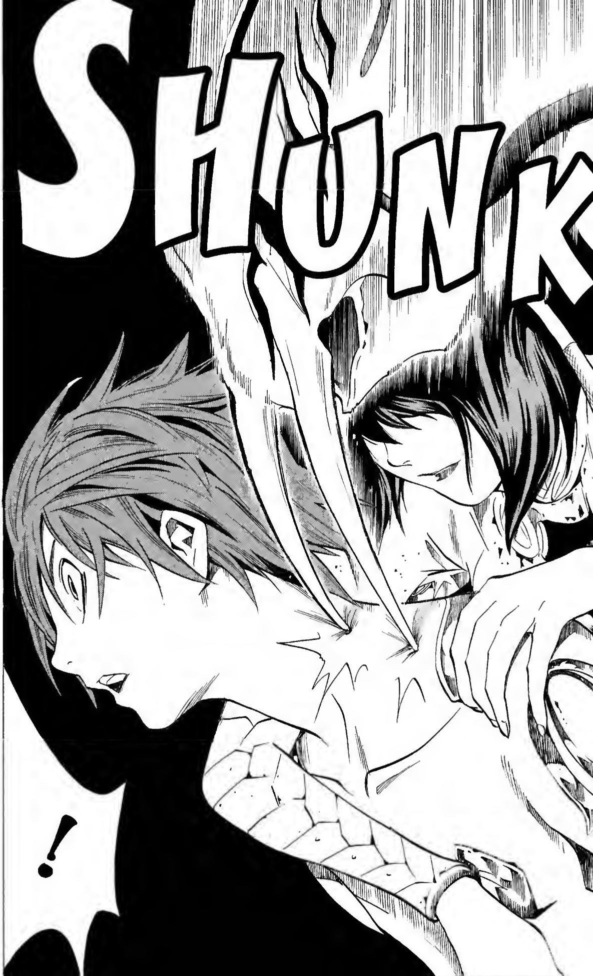

DON'T YOU WORRY. WE'RE GONNA MAKE OPSQURIA PAY FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE!
HOW ABOUT IT, LUCILE? WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US SO YOU CAN AVENGE YOUR FRIENDS?
SIR RAL...
IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME, I TOO WOULD HAVE DIED...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.
I...
I'D DO ANY-THING FOR YOU, SIR RAL...
OH, TIT FOR TAT...?
RAL, HOW COULD YOU--?!
THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME --!!
GO AHEAD, SIR RAL...
WHAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GO AHEAD"?

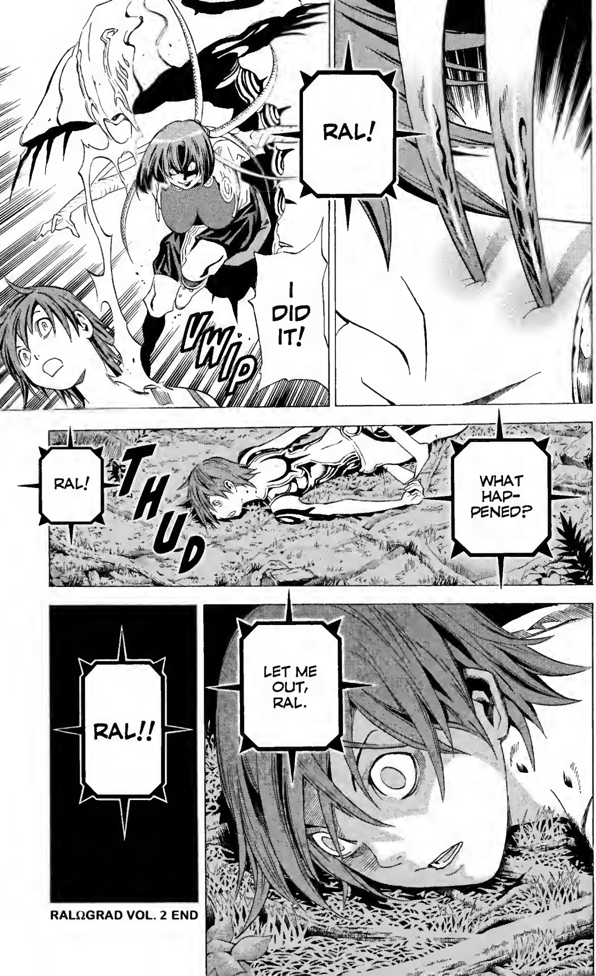

DMDMDA
MDM
NOW THEN...
...
B-BUT, SIR RAL! NOT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE...OH!
THEN WHERE?
WHY, RAL?! YOU WERE MY HERO...
...
I KNOW A GOOD PLACE.
...
SEE THOSE THREE LARGE POPILLAR TREES?
THE SHORTER TREE IN THE MIDDLE.


MY FRIENDS AND I WERE USING THE INSIDE OF THAT TREE AS A HIDEOUT.
WE SHOULD BE SAFE FROM SHADOWS IN THERE.
OKAY THEN. SUNSU AND KAFKA, YOU'RE STAYING HERE TONIGHT.
MISS MIO, AIA, LUCILE AND I WILL GO OVER THERE TO SLEEP.
THE FOUR OF US?
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT TO?
...
I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH YOU, SIR RAL...
I GET IT. SOME PEOPLE GET EMBARRASSED WHEN THERE'RE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND.
THEN IT'LL BE JUST US TWO.
YES.


OH...
Y'KNOW, MISS MIO, SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A SHADOW, THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN YOU BEING HERE IN SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE.
!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO SPHAELITE.
WHAT?
RAL! HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING?!
NO, KAFKA. RAL IS RIGHT.


THAT'S NOT IT. YOU SHOULD TAKE LADY MIO'S FEELINGS INTO CONSIDERATION SINCE SHE CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR YOU.
HMM... I GUESS IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO GO BACK ALONE.
OH WELL. KAFKA, TAKE CARE OF EVERYBODY. I'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING.
RAL!
TUP
TUP
RAL, WATCH OUT FOR SHADOWS!
OH, LADY MIO...
...
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
RAL ...
RAL IS LEARNING TO GET ALONG WITHOUT ME. I SHOULD BE HAPPY.
IT'S TIME I START LETTING GO AS WELL...
WOW, THIS IS PERFECT FOR A HIDEOUT.


SHUNK
!


RAL!
I DID IT!
VWIP
WHAT HAPPENED?
THUD
RAL!
LET ME OUT, RAL.
RAL!!

RALΩGRAD VOL. 2 END

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